The Long Island FISHERMAN

35¢

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

MARCH 24th, 1977, ISSUE No. 10

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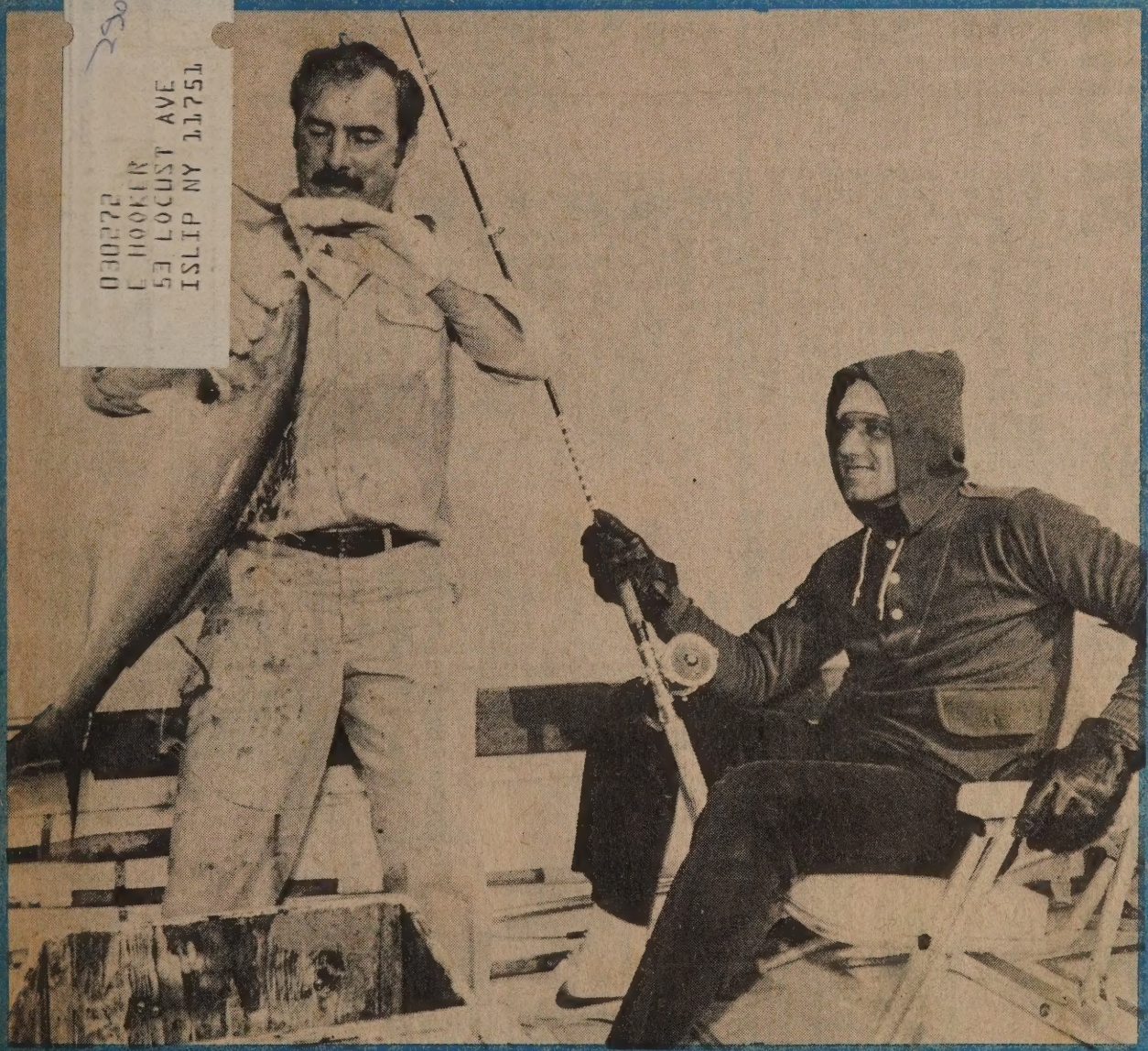

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 10 MARCH 24th, 1977

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About the Cover—

Captain Frank Braddick of the Montauk charterboat "Hurry-Up" unhooks a big chopper bluefish for N.Y. Jets star Joe Namath. Photo by Dick Mermon.

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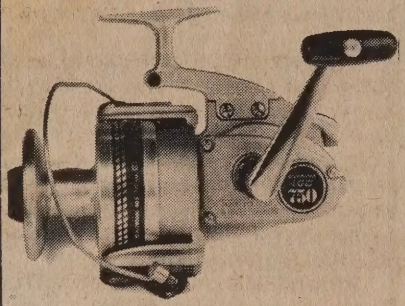

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EDITORIAL

NEW HUMAN SPECIES

I have belonged to a health spa now for well over a year. I have noticed that there are a number of different types of people that use the facilities of the spa.

There are some people who are dreadfully out of shape, and I doubt that any amount of exercise will significantly help their cause. They try and should receive points for recognizing that their health is a valuable possession. There are also a number of people who were out of shape but not hoplessly so when they joined the spa. These people use a well-rounded exercise program combined with a proper diet to maintain good conditioning and good health. Then there are the "muscleheads." Muscleheads are generally not the brightest people in the world from my experience. Many care little about sound diet and usually consume great quantities of expensive liquid protein. I wonder how many of them realize that unless they drink the proper amount of water that their kidneys will be under stress trying to handle all the waste products from the metabolism of all that protein. You rarely see the musclehead in the pool, whirpool, or steamroom. He rarely warms up at the bicycles either. The musclehead goes directly from the lockerroom to the dumb-bells?!

Sad to say we have the equivalent of the spa musclehead in sportfishing: Perhaps we should call them "fish-heads!" What are the characteristics of this new species of human? We shall assign these "humans" the scientific name *Homo dumis* after the quality of their collective I.Q.s.

To begin with *Homo dumis* is not impressed with facts, books, data, scientific studies, or the findings of technology. Relevant information and data is the basis by which intelligent, logical, and mature people like yourself, make decisions and reach conclusions.

Not *Homo dumis* Facts are beneath his "vast intellect." Like the true Archie Bunker that he is, he believes in and relies upon what his twisted and warped brain tells him and of course his brain functions on the basis of his own private, limited, and immature observations.

Tell him that George Washington was the first president of the United States and he'll find a way to disagree. Since he doesn't trust historians, because they are trained experts, and since he doesn't read very often, he'll not be able to defend his belief that Thomas Jefferson was the first president of this country, but he'll scream at you, fold his hands across his chest aggressively, and begin to call you names. If you suggest that a book should be consulted, he'll tell you that he should not and cannot trust what is written in a book because the author of the book is just another human being like himself and probably put that information in the book because somebody paid the author to do so!

I apologize for that sentence, but try as I might I couldn't convert the incredible flood of illogic from a *Homo dumis* into anything but a dribbling run-on sentence. You get my meaning. If you told a *Homo dumis* that rocks are hard, and if this creature has only stepped on rocks with soft shoes, he'll insist that rocks are soft!

All of this was intended to set the stage for what follows. I am absolutely fed-up with the "dead-horse" topic of who kills more gamefish. Sick of it I tell you! How any reasonable person can still believe that commercial fishermen take more bass, blues and weakfish than sportfishermen is something that I cannot fathom. In fact sportsfishermen sell more pounds of those three species than all the gillnetters, haul seiners, and draggers put together!

These are people who are governed by childish emotions. Their beliefs are hatched from several distasteful experiences in which a commercial fishermen mopped-up a school of fish from under their noses. Of course this is rude and inexcusable and there will come a day when this kind of conflict will be dealt with under the guidelines of law and enforcement. We would also agree that the sight of a large haul seine or gill net take is somewhat offending to the eyes, but it is neither socially unacceptable, legally wrong, nor ecologically damaging when the harvest is made under reasonable management criteria. Sad to say meaningful management criteria are, for the most part, yet to be designed!

What does *Homo dumis* say to last year's experience at Montauk when gillnetters and haul seiners went broke? Sure sportfishing for bass at Montauk was off last year, but hook and liners still managed to ship thousands upon thousands of pounds of bass to market.

I don't want anyone to ask me this question again, or argue with me about it anymore. I refuse from this day forward to be "suckered" into anymore of those useless discussions.

(Continued on page 26.)

BOATING

BOATING COURSES

Flotilla 12-1 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will present a Young Boatman's Safety Course. This course is mandatory for any youth between the ages of 10 and 16 who wishes to operate a motorboat alone. This course is completely free, and will meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 42-18 31st Avenue, Astoria, Queens on Mondays from March 21st 1977 to April 25th 1977, from 8 P.M. to 10 P.M.

****

Bayside Flotilla 12-1 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer a seven lesson Sailing Course, devoted exclusively to sailboats, starting on March 22nd, 1977 and continuing every Tuesday night from 8-10 P.M. It meets at the Northeast Regular Democratic Club, 45-46 Bell Blvd, Bayside, Queens, 2nd floor, for seven nights, near Northern Blvd. Use rear entrance. Call 726-1764 for further information.

The instruction itself is free but a $10 registration fee must be charged to defray the cost of materials. The course covers fundamentals of sailboating.

****

Flotilla 13-3 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will begin a six lesson course in Basic Seamanship at the Lincoln-Orens School in Island Park. Registration will be held on March 22-23-24, 1977 from 7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at Lincoln-Orens School. Classes will meet once a week beginning on Monday, April 18th, 1977 at 8:00 P.M. This course is open to the general public. There is a modest fee for materials. For further information call Ed Caracciolo at 516 432-4731.

CLUB NEWS

FISHING BUGS OF BKLY'N

The Fishing Bugs of Brooklyn would like to announce the results of their annual Award Party which was held on Jan. 15th. Three beautiful trophies were awarded to the following anglers: Phil Ferrara for 4 lb. 15 oz. blackfish, Joseph Franzo for a 13 lb. 8 oz. bluefish and Phil Ferrara again for a 7 lb. 8 oz. fluke. Also, Schaeffer Contest Most Valuable Club Angler awards were given to Louis Greco and Eugene Ferguson.

LONG ISLAND SURF FISHING CLUB

The Long Island Surf Fishing Club of Astoria Queens New York are seeking new members. Anyone interested please contact Roy Harlick at 516 742-8658 after 6 P.M.

METROPOLITAN ROD AND GUN

On April 17th, 1977, the Metropolitan Rod and Gun Club will celebrate the 202 Anniversary of the ride of Paul Revere with a fishing trip for flounders. The "Blue Fin" of Freeport has been chartered for the day and prizes will be awarded for the largest fish and high hook.

FARRAGUT STRIPER CLUB

The Farragut Striper Club would like to announce that at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 30th, the guest speaker will be Mr. Lou Rossie. Mr. Rossie will present a film, lecture and give a demonstration on the art of fly tying, fishing the fly and fishing the bucktail with light tackle. The public is cordially invited to attend. If you are considering getting into light tackle, this is your opportunity to pick up a few tips from an expert. For further information, please contact Bob Marin at 516 698-0810.

Contests & Tournaments

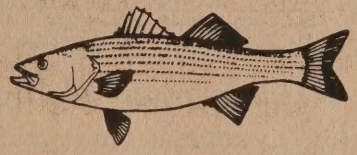
MORICHES ANGLERS SHARK TOURNAMENT

The Moriches Anglers Inc. is sponsoring its third annual shark tournament on June 11th (rain date on June 12th.) Entry fee is $50 per boat. Time is 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Prizes: of the total entries collected, 20 percent will be taken by the club for tournament expenses. Of the remaining 80 percent, prizes are as follows:

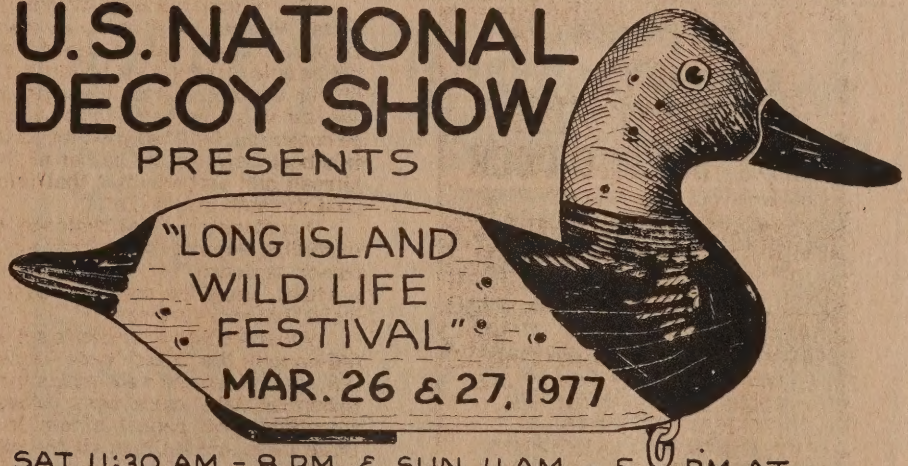
50 percent for the largest shark; 30 percent for the 2nd largest shark and 20 percent for the 3rd largest shark...plus a special award for the boat tagging and releasing the most sharks.

Location: Boats will be leaving from Shoreline Marina, Foot of Union Avenue Center Moriches N.Y. For more information, contact Chet Wilcox at B&B Tackle, Main Street, in Center Moriches. Phone 878-9640 or Wally Rodriguez at 737-3448



U.S. NATIONAL DECOY SHOW

PRESENTS



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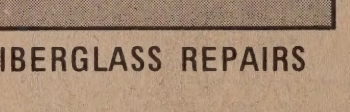
The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



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Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

John Tozser of Shirley is the Contest Winner for this week. Along with his cash prize of $40 he has chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Viking Star.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

DAV-477

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

Report On Public Hearing Held Thurs., March 17th, On Asseblyman Kidder's Salt Water License Bill

What a way to spend St. Patrick's Day. Here we are in the Nassau County Executive Building listening to a barrage of objections, including our own, to the Salt Water License Bill when we could be inaugurating the flounder season.

It turns out that the meeting discusses a variety of issues from the salt water license to bear traps to clams and striped bass legislation. There is no order to the presentations. Speakers talking to many bills are mixed-up so that there is no continuity to the proceedings. We think that this was unfortunate and an obvious attempt to confuse and water down opposition. We hope that this kind of thing doesn't happen again.

Mr. Kidder says, "I got the message" several times. The message is that his Bill is unwanted and written poorly. In an attempt to save face he requests input from fishermen concerning their ideas on a license. He offers to come back down to Long Island for another meeting.

Net result in summary is: Because of intense opposition to his Bill from fishermen and Long Island legislators the Bill is dead. However, folks, keep the old "eagle eye" open for a sneak attack in the weeks to come. Upstaters want us to have a salt water license.

Mr. Kidder was also very complimentary to the Long Island Fisherman and its readers. When I and Mr. Simons had completed our statements he commented that he received a deluge of letters from anglers that were generated by The Long Island Fisherman and he noted the effectiveness of the publication and the dedication of its readers. Thanks folks!

Politicians and legislators are increasingly aware that Long Island anglers are a force to be reckoned with and that's because you folks take the time to make petitions and write letters. As long as we stay united and strong we're going to get the kind of quality recreation that we and our descendants are entitled to!

Dr. W. A. M.

Fishermen Vote NO to Salt Water License; YES To Sportfishing Council

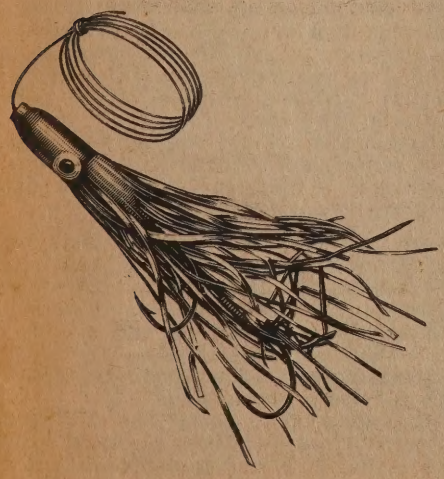
At a meeting of several hundred invited sportfishermen representing many facets of the industry and sport, anglers voiced their opinions against the concept of a salt water license. The Long Island Fisherman presented our views on the meaning of available information at the meeting held Friday, March 18th, 1977 at the Plainview Holiday Inn. We interpreted the information in terms of the present and the future. Those present however, disagreed with our interpretation. We accepted the mandate of our Long Island fishermen. We sincerely hope that the future proves that we were wrong and that they were right.

On the other hand, anglers were in agreement that a recreational advisory council to The Department of Environmental Conservation would be helpful for the following reasons:

1. effect changes in D.E.C. policy.
2. serve as a watch-dog against abusive legislations.
3. gather information for release to anglers and media.
4. existance of a formal council would add meaning to objections of anglers to regulations and legislation.
5. intercept and defeat unwanted legislation.
6. improve the quality of our fishing and our marine environment.

Anglers have been invited to form this council by Mr. Anthony Taormina, Director of Division of Marine and Coastal Resources. Anglers were unanimous that if the powers that be try to turn the council into a meaningless ''rubber stamping'' body that this message would be brought before the media and council would be terminated.

The fishermen present asked The Long Island Fisherman to coordinate this effort. A questionaire will follow in an upcoming issue of the publication.



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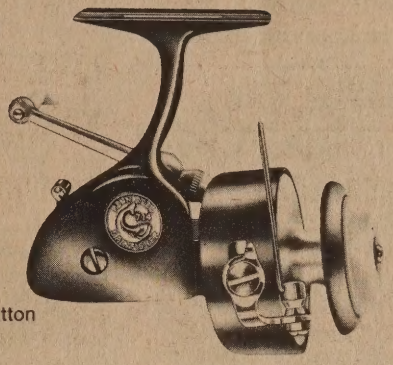

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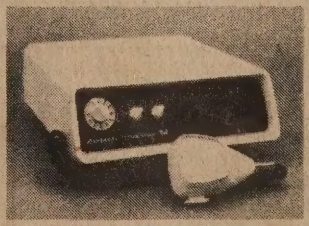

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We should add to the list of swimming plugs the Atom Swimmers, Lupo Danny Plugs, Gibbs Swimmers (bottle plugs) and the Gibbs Darter. Both the Atoms and the Danny Plugs have metal lips, and this makes them somewhat unique. Their swimming patterns can, with a small modification, be altered. When the front eye of the plug is bent "DOWNWARD", and the lip adjusted in the same direction, they will swim at or near the surface. Bend the eye and lip "UPWARDS", and they will swim deeper. Try altering the depths of these plugs when the fish are picky.

The Jr. Atom and a Danny Plug of the same size are the most commonly used with the big rod. Up to one ounce version of these plugs can be used with your light tackle. White, or blue and white, seem to produce best.

SELECTING YOUR GEAR

— Part III —

Plugs & Terminal Tackle

The Gibbs bottle plug and darter are the mainstays at Montauk. They can also be used effectively in any area where there is a strong tidal rip. Both these plugs are excellent and they take a great deal of fish each season.

The bottle plug resembles an old coke bottle and swims with an up-and-down motion. The darter on the other hand, has a planed head and swims in a zig-zag pattern. While these plugs come in assorted sizes the larger ones, (2½ ounce darter, 3 ounce bottle plug) are the best at Montauk.

White, yellow and blue and white are the most common colors found in the bags of most fishermen.

POPPERS: With the huge assortment of poppers on the market today, it is extremely difficult to distinguish between them. While some may cast better than others, all will no doubt take fish.

The most important consideration is size. On many occasions the fish will strike smaller poppers, while the larger ones produce only swirls behind them. This is particularly true with respect to the striped bass. Bluefish have been known to attack any type of popper, while the weakfish very often avoid them.

Another consideration to take into account is the tail hook decorated with a bucktail. Again bass will show a preference for these while the bluefish will destroy them. Don't use a decorated tail hook when the blues are around.

Poppers up to 2½ ounces are the only sizes you should consider. Anything larger may impede your case. That is, with the exception of the Polaris and Pencil Popper.

The Atom popper (Striper Swiper), Creek Chub Striper-Strike, Herter's Striper King, along with the Gibbs Polaris and Pencil Popper, are the most frequently used. They are all brand names and are also proven fish takers. One item of importance to new comers—Avoid the use of the Pencil Popper. It is extremely difficult and sometimes very tiresome to work. You will draw many short strikers when you use it, and even veteran casters will find this so. Until you become more adapt at fishing stay away from the pencil popper.

While colors "may" or "may not" be important when using poppers, blue and white, white, yellow, yellow and orange, and fluorescent orange are by far the most popular with surfmen.

HOOKS: Regardless of the type of hooks your plug has, or the type of hooks you use when bottom fishing, all will eventually have to be replaced. Even the stainless steel hooks are no exception. While they may not rust or corrode as other types will, they can still be bent by the powerful jaws of a big fish. This is especially true of the smaller variety. Add to this, the fact that excited fishermen will attempt to "pull" these hooks loose from their quarry by using pliers, and you can see how even the best of hooks get ruined.

When purchasing hooks be sure to buy only those that are produced for salt water use. They are made from corrosion resistant metals and may be coated with cadmium, nickle or even gold.

Since hooks come in a variety of sizes, numerical designations are used to distinguish between them. Larger hooks use the "O" code. They will appear as 2/0, 3/0, 4/0, etc., with the HIGHER NUMBER signifying the LARGER hook. Smaller hooks use the plain number system. They will appear as #2, #3, #4, etc., with the LOWER number signifying the LARGER hook.

The strength of a hook is also explained by using a code. In this case the X code is used (X for extra strong.) You may see them as 2X, 3X, etc., or XX, XXX, etc., with the greater number of Xs marking the stronger hook.

A good replacement hook for your 4½ or 5½ inch Rebel or Red-Fin is the #2 4X treble hook by Eagle Claw. With your smaller plug, such as the 7/8 ounce Atoms, a #3 will serve you well. A 3/0 or 4/0 3X treble by Mustad can be used on larger plugs.

For bottom fishing using worms, clams, or cut bait, a 3/0 to 6/0 Eagle Claw bait saver hook is ideal. The bait saver consists of two barbs protruding from the shank. They will hold the bait in place when casting.

Bluefish on the other hand requires a 6/0 or 7/0 with 3 inches of wire, when bottom fishing. Purchase the type that the Party Boat Skippers use while chumming these fish.

For use while fishing live eels, a 4/0, 5/0, or 6/0 3X Siwash hook will serve you well.

You know what type of opening or eye your hooks require. If you will place the hooks over a split ring, choose the closed eye. On the other hand, if the hooks will be mounted on screw eyes or swivels, select the open eye variety. Be careful when placing the hook through the split ring. If you force too large a hook through a small ring you will force it to remain open. When this occurs you should discard the split ring. Use the same size hooks and split rings as those that you are going to replace, however, make sure that the new rings are stainless steel. You can obtain these good quality hooks and rings by writing The Surfcaster, 113 Maywood Road, Darien, Ct. 06820.

One last word regarding hooks. Make sure that they conform to your other tackle. A light rod will not be able to effectively set a large hook on a big fish. By the same token, a big rod, because of its heavier tip, may cause your smaller hooks to bend in the jaws of a big game fish.

SNAPS: Only good quality stainless steel snaps should be used. Those brass or nickle plated ones that you often see in department stores should be avoided. They are not only soft and cheaply made, but will bend or open up very easily. There is a great deal of pressure put on the snap and I have personally seen them either split down the middle or open under pressure.

There are, on the market today, some brand names that are very good. Kelux, Sambo, Pompanette, and Herters. Most veteran surfmen will be using one of these brands.

You will also notice that snaps come with different ends or tips. Some may be straight, while others will be curved or bent at a 90 degree angle. The curved or bent tips should be the only ones you select. The straight edges are easier to open and may do just that at the wrong time.

Some snaps will have swivels attached. Many surfmen refuse to use these for fear that the extra bulk will inhibit the action of their plugs. I personally agree with this and use just a plain snap at the end of my line. Incidentally, if it wasn't for the fact that changing artificials is made easier, many fishermen would not even use a snap.

Size designations are again signified by a numerical code. However, the code is not consistent throughout the industry. One thing is certain though, and that is to use a small snap with small plugs and large snaps with large plugs.

SWIVELS: Swivels are supposed to turn under pressure and thus avoid line twist. However, not all of them will do just that. Only the best quality ball bearing swivels will even come close to doing so. Most fishermen consider the swivel as a connector of line to leader, rather than something that will avoid line twist. At any rate, you should purchase a good quality swivel. Again, avoid those cheap brass or nickle plated types. I have seen inferior swivels pull apart under pressure.

Swivels are rated according to pound test. For light tackle, use one that tests out to about 50 pounds. One of about 75 pound test will serve you well when heavier tackle is used.

(Continued on page 11.)

THE FISHERMAN "IQ" TEST

BY FRED GUARDINEER

① WHAT IS THE WORLD'S ANNUAL FISH HOOK PRODUCTION ?

MILLIONS ☐ TRILLIONS ☐
BILLIONS ☐ UNKNOWN ☐

② THE BLOOD OF AN OCTOPUS IS...

RED ☐
BLUE ☐
COLORLESS ☐

ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE.

③ THE WHALE SHARK, THE WORLD'S LARGEST, 60 FEET AND 20 TONS, IS HARMLESS TO MAN.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

④ WHICH IS A FISH'S CAUDAL FIN ?

⑤ WHAT IS THIS INSTRUMENT USED BY FRESHWATER LIVE BAIT FISHERMEN ?

⑥ PAINT PRESERVES THE METAL ON AN ALUMINUM BOAT.

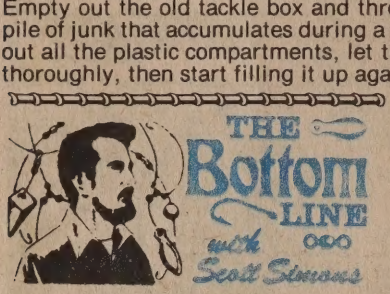
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

⑦ HOW MANY DOGS IN THE U.S. ?

27 MILLION ☐
37 MILLION ☐
47 MILLION ☐

1 - UNKNOWN. NORWAY, U.S. AND JAPAN PRODUCE 3½ BILLION, BUT NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY ARE PRODUCED BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN. 2 - BLUE WHEN IT PICKS UP OXYGEN, COLORLESS AFTER IT HAS CIRCULATED. 3 - TRUE. IT FEEDS MAINLY ON PLANKTON. 4 - THE CAUDAL FIN IS THE TAIL FIN ON FISH. 5 - A MINNOW-BUCKET AERATOR THAT USES AIR FROM A SPARE TIRE TO KEEP MINNOWS ALIVE IN TRANSIT. 6 - FALSE. PAINT IS PURELY DECORATIVE. 7 - 47 MILLION.

Now that the word is out that the first catches of flounders have been taken and the start of a new fishing season is upon us, your adrenalin is probably starting to flow and you'll be trying to get your gear in shape. Get out those reels and clean them up (why didn't you do that during the winter?) and load them up with new, fresh monofilament line. Wash all those dried fish scales and guts that have become encrusted on your rod (pole to you surfcasters) and fix those guides. Empty out the old tackle box and throw away that inevitable pile of junk that accumulates during a season of fishing. Wash out all the plastic compartments, let the inside of the box dry thoroughly, then start filling it up again...plugs, lures, snaps, swivels, pliers, pork-rind, hook-disgorger, knife, extra monofilament, special scale that adds 20% to any fish weighed on it, a tape measure, hook sharpener and last, but not least, all those rigs you pre-tied during the winter months when you had nothing to do...



—TYING RIGS—
Part One

WHAT???? You mean to tell me that you wasted the winter looking out the window at all the pretty ice storms and didn't get around to tying any rigs? What are you, nuts? When are you going to do it, when you're out on the water? Pre-tying your own basic bottom rigs leisurely at home has several advantages. First, by tying a lot of rigs at one time, you can set up an assembly line system that will result in less time spent on each rig. You can also save a considerable amount of money by buying the rig components in bulk rather than in small quantities on a "need-to-have" basis. But most importantly, you'll save precious fishing time on the water—doesn't it make sense to tie that rig in your spare time at home rather than when the fish are biting their heads off and literally jumping into the boat? It's times like that when you may suddenly find yourself with ten thumbs as your hurridely try to tie a rig to get back in the water before the blitz comes to an end. So for the next few weeks we are going to have a series of articles on how to tie the basic bottom rigs.

All basic bottom rigs serve two primary purposes: 1. They keep the baited hook(s) at a predetermined distance from the bottom, within the normal feeding zone of the fish being sought. 2. It prevents the hook(s), leader and sinker from becoming entangled so that the bait can be presented in a "natural" manner. Bottom rigs also have two secondary functions: 1. The heavier leader prevents abrasion from bottom obstructions and fish that rub against it. 2. They provide a means of swinging the catch into the boat, particularly when using light tackle.

There are three major components necessary for virtually every bottom rig: hooks(s), leader, and sinker. The assembled components are similar to a tree: the sinker (root), the leader (trunk), and the hooks (branches). A barrel swivel is used to connect the bottom rig to the main line coming off your reel.

Leader material is quite a bit different than the standard monofilament that you use on your reel for fishing. It has a larger diameter, which makes it stiffer than regular mono and helps to keep the hook and leader from getting tangled. A piece of 30-lb. leader material will be much thicker than 30-lb. mono. It is also softer than regular mono, which makes the knots you are going to tie with it bind better and prevents slippage. The leader material is used for making leaders (naturally) and is also used for snelling a hook. A hook snell is simply a length of leader that connects the eye of the hook to the main leader at the point you wish it to. The length of the hook snell will be determined by the species being sought and the method being used to pursue it, which we will go into more detail later in this series.

Leader material may be purchased in two forms: pre-cut lengths or coils. Personally, I perfer to use 48¾ inch pre-cut lengths as I find it easier to work with than the springy coils that always seem to be trying to tie me up. Most of the better tackle shops carry both forms these days, so try your local bait and tackle shop first to fill your needs. If you have trouble buying leader material or want to buy it in bulk, send for the following catalogs from outfits that deal by mail order: Midland Tackle Company, 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, N.Y. 10974 or The Salt Water Tackle Box, Box 263, E. Falmouth, Mass. 02536.

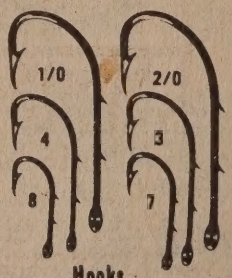
Barrel swivels can also be purchased at your local bait and tackle shop. Whenever possible, try to get black barrel swivels, not those shiny brass or silver ones. This is particularly important if the fish are leader shy or when fishing in areas that also have an abundance of bluefish that may strike any shiny object when on a feeding frenzy. For the purpose of connecting a leader to the main line I use a number 5 or number 7 black barrel swivel, and use the larger sizes for sliding sinker rigs.

The fish hook is the last and most vital link in the chain of fishing tackle and technique. A school of fish can be located and you can use all the correct fishing tackle, proper bait and fishing method without landing a single fish simply by using the wrong hook style or pattern or a hook that is too large or too small. ALL other fishing tackle and techniques serve only one purpose, have one ultimate goal—to deliver a baited hook to the fishes mouth. It's the hook that actually catches the fish. Because the various species have mouths of varying shapes and sizes, each necessitates the use of a particular hook pattern or style. They also have a different manner of taking a bait. Using the wrong hook pattern or style can result in many "missed" strikes, leaving you to shake your head in wonder at the guy right alongside of you at the rail that never seems to miss a fish because he is using the "correct" style for the species being sought. The following table is a basic guide to the various hook patterns and range of sizes used for each of our local bottom species. But if you have any doubts, ask your local bait and tackle dealer for size and hook style most effective in the area you are planning to fish.

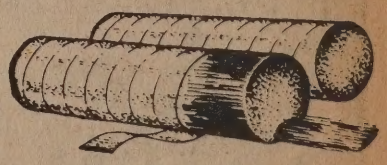
FLUKE	Beak or Carlisle	2/0 thru 5/0
FLOUNDER	Chestertown	#7 thru #10
CODFISH	Sproat, Beak	6/0 thru 9/0
POLLACK	Sproat, Beak	6/0 thru 9/0
BLUEFISH	Carlisle, Beak	5/0 thru 9/0
BLACKFISH	Virginia	#4 thru #5
WEAKFISH	Sproat, Beak	1/0 thru 3/0
SEABASS	Beak, Sproat	1/0 thru 3/0
PORGY	Sproat, Aberdeen	#6 thru 3/0

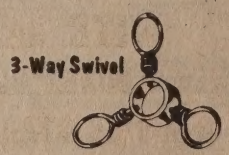
As you can see, I lean towards the beak style of hook

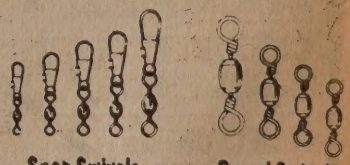
MATERIALS & COMPONENTS FOR TYING BASIC BOTTOM RIGS



Hooks


Leader Material


3-Way Swivel


Snap Swivels

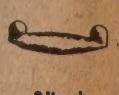
Barrel Swivels

Bank

Diamond

Pyramid

Egg


Clinch

whenever there is a choice. Purchasing hooks is one area that you shouldn't be looking to economize in. If you think about it for a minute, a hook is a relatively cheap part of any fishing trip or when compared to other tackle, so spend a few more pennies and buy only the best. Stay away from "grab-bags" of cheap imports that offer six-dozen flounder hooks for fifty-nine cents or some other nonsense. Stick with the popular brands that fishermen have tried and proven: Mustad, American Way, etc. Cheap hooks have poor points and have usually not been tempered correctly, causing them to bend or break under stress. When buying hooks, look for the eye to be completely closed so that the snell won't get jammed in a crack and possibly begin to fray. It's also very important to use hooks that have been made for use in saltwater: nickle plated, bronzed or blued hooks may be great for the freshwater fisherman, but they will quickly rust and weaken when exposed to the corrosive qualities of saltwater. The best types of finish for a hook that is going to be used in saltwater are those that are tinned, gold or cadmium plated, or best of all stainless steel. Throw out old and rusty hooks and replace them with new ones.

The size of the hook you will use on the basic bottom rig you tie will largely be determined by the size of the fishes mouth being sought. In proportion to their size blackfish, flounder and porgies require relatively small hooks while big-mouthed species like cod, pollack, and seabass call for relatively large ones. Depending on where you fish, different size hooks will have to be used for the same species. For example, when fishing for fluke in a shallow bay you would use a smaller hook than when ocean fishing, simply because as a rule the fish will be larger in deeper water. But what about those times when you are fishing blind in an unknown area and have no idea of what's going to take your bait? A hook too small or too large can reduce your catch considerably, but as a rule of thumb always lean to the smaller size whenever there are any doubts in your mind. The reason is simple: large fish can be caught on a small hook easier than a small fish being caught on a large hook.

You don't really need any special tools to tie rigs, but there are a few items that will make things a whole lot easier. A Sportmate or Sargeant's pliers (like the ones mates always have hanging on their belts) can be that indispensible third-hand that always seems necessary when tying rigs. It can be used to trim knots or firmly grasp a hook or barrel swivel when pulling a snelling knot or improved clinch knot snug. A fingernail clipper is also a good tool for trimming knots. Cigaretts (or punks if you don't smoke) are a good way of making a little ball of melted mono on the end of each trimmed knot so that it won't slip. Sure, the heat may weaken the monofilament leader somewhat, but who cares—the leader is usually a much heavier pound test than the main line anyway, right?

Next week we'll go into the art of knot tying, a necessary evil for tying rigs.

SurfSide: SELECTING YOUR GEAR
(Continued from page 8.)

I prefer to keep all my swivels as small as possible and yet still maintain the necessary strength. Look on the box before buying and select only those that meet the standards. Another fact to keep in mind is that your swivels should be black. They are more difficult for a fish to see and this is very important especially when bluefish are around.

Before purchasing swivels test them. Make sure that the eyes turn freely, and that they are well constructed.

This concludes our talk on tackle selection. I hope that by now you will agree that there is no such thing as an all around piece of fishing equipment. Many of the items mentioned here are not only my opinions, but the thoughts of other veteran surfmen. I also hope that these suggestions will make your task of selecting the proper tackle a little easier.

Good Luck and Good Fishing...

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Navigation & Seamanship

with Capt. Irv Levine

Rules of the Road: —INLAND—

For the purpose of navigation to prevent collision on bays, harbors, rivers, sounds, etc., in U.S. waters which connect to the high seas. The boundary lines for Inland Rules are established by the Commandant of the Coast Guard. These boundary lines are described on charts, and in Coast Guard manual 169, Aug. 1, 1972. This manual can be obtained by writing to Washington, D.C., or contacting your nearest Coast Guard district office. Rules! Rules! Rules! Without them there would be mass confusion, be it land, sea or air. However, you must understand that when you are at the wheel of a vessel there is the presumption of understanding and knowledge. You the skipper shall not be excused due to ignorance. To think otherwise is foolish. Reckless endangerment is punishable by a fine and imprisonment. Before we go further, let's define some terms for this chapter.

Privileged Vessel—the vessel which has the right of way.

Burdened Vessel—the vessel which must keep clear of the privileged vessel.

Short Blast—(whistle) approximately one second duration.

Prolong blast—(whistle) approximately 4-6 second duration.

Long Blast—(whistle) approximately 8-10 second duration.

Danger zone—the area dead ahead to two points abaft the starboard beam.

Power Vessel—any vessel propelled by machinery, including Sailing vessels under power and sail.

Danger Signal—not less than 4 short rapid blasts.

Let's examine the duty of the privileged and burdened vessel. The privileged vessel has an obligation to maintain course and speed. This gives the burdened vessel an opportunity to take action on a known set of rules and conditions. This statement must be understood. The privileged vessel shall terminate course and speed and become burdened if danger of collision is imminent. The duty of the burdened vessel must take positive action to stay clear of the privileged vessel. Steering and sailing rules must be observed under all normal circumstances. If both vessels continue course and speed and the danger of collision is imminent, then both vessels are burdened and are obliged to take all necessary action to avoid collision. This is known as the Prudential Rule (article 27, C.G. 169). Reminder—The privileged vessel does not have the right to endanger the burdened vessel.

There are three basic situations which can cause a collision. Overtaking, crossing, and meeting. Obviously we cannot communicate with ease to another vessel with voice or arm motion.

We use whistle signals when vessels are in sight of each other; course and position can be plotted. This also applies to running lights at night. Please keep in mind that Rules of the Road C.G. 169 is 114 pages thick. We are dealing with only three basic situations. When a vessel sounds one blast she shall be answered by one blast, two blasts shall be answered by two blasts. This is known as "Intent and Agreement". You are asking for permission and I am in agreement. Had you answered one blast with two blasts, or two blasts answering one blast, that is called a cross signal. This is illegal and must be avoided at all times. You are legally responsible for your actions. Grab A----g should not and must not be tolerated. Vessel shall continue to exchange signals until agreement has been reached. If either skipper fails to understand the course or intention of the other, that skipper may sound the danger signal. Power vessels crossing (figure #2). When two power vessels are crossing, so as to involve risk of collision, that vessel which has the other on her starboard side shall keep clear by directing her course to starboard so as to cross astern of the privileged vessel or if necessary slacken speed, stop, reverse. There are no signals for this situation in Inland Rules. However, the pilot rules for Inland Rules dictate that the privileged vessel shall sound one blast. There is nothing in the rules that dictates the burdened vessel need answer. If she does, it's probably out of courtesy.

POWER VESSELS MEETING—(Figure #3)

When two power vessels are approaching each other, head-on and danger of collision exists, neither vessel is privileged. In this situation, each vessel shall sound one blast, direct their course to starboard and pass each other on the port side. If two vessels are meeting but could safely pass each other, then it would not be necessary to change course. In this situation if the vessels pass port to port (red light to red light) then each pilot would signify his intention by one blast of the whistle. In a starboard to starboard situation (green light to green light) each skipper shall signify his intent by two blasts of the whistle. Before I continue, let me say that most accidents are caused by ignorance, selfishness and misunderstanding.

POWER VESSELS—(Figure #4)

When a vessel is overtaking another vessel, the overtaking vessel is burdened and the overtaken vessel is privileged. A vessel coming up on another vessel and that vessel astern is two points abaft the other vessel's beam; or the overtaking

(Continued on page 15.

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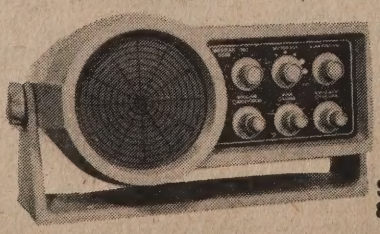

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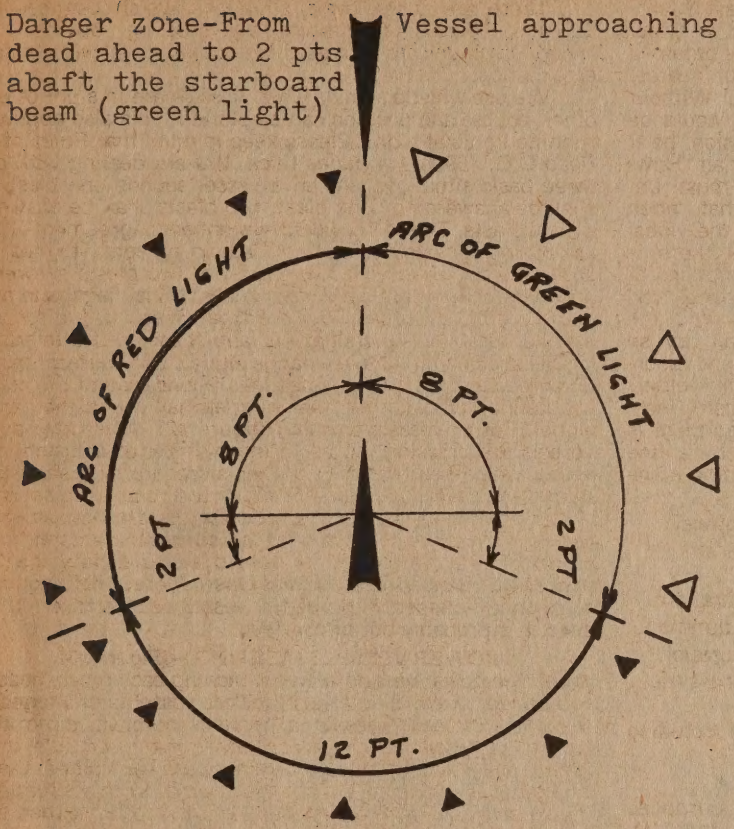
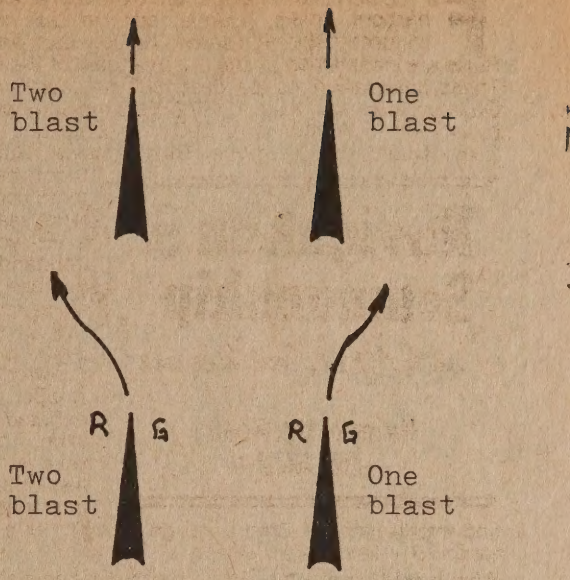
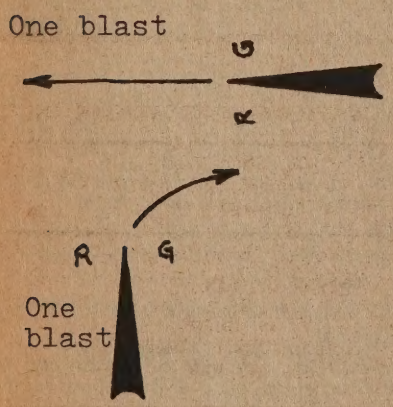


Figure # 1



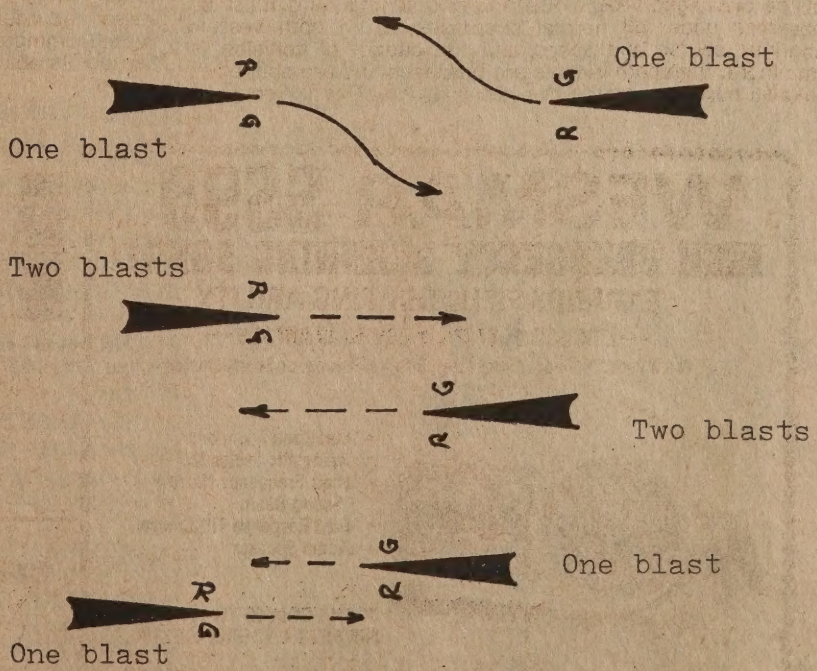
An equal exchange of whistle signals.
Power vessels overtaking.

Figure # 4



An equal exchange of whistle signals.
Power vessels crossing.

Figure # 2



An equal exchange of whistle signals.
Power vessels meeting.

Figure # 3

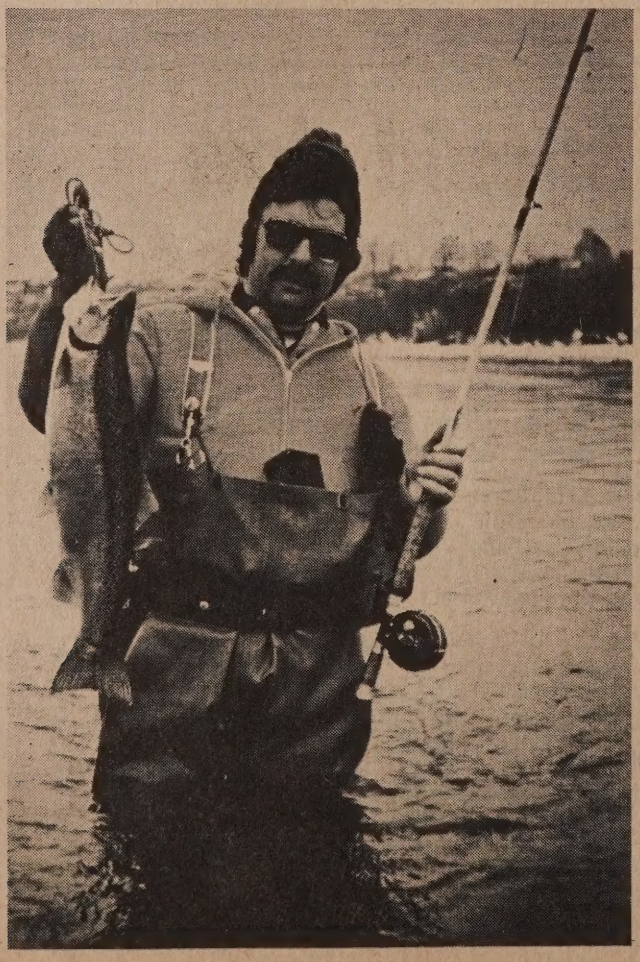
FRESH WATER

with Angelo Peluso

THE DAY OF THE TROUT

I am firmly convinced that half of the excitement generated by the opening day of trout is derived from both the preparation for that long awaited day and the anticipation of the first trout of the season. Anticipation might have been dulled a bit this year due to the severity of the winter—many anglers were not too optimistic regarding the prospects for a good opening day. But with a little luck, March will bring with it seasonal temperatures that will set the stage for a satisfactory April 1st. Regardless of the overall statewide conditions, Long Island trout fishermen should have a relatively better opening day than upstate neighbors. Conditions are such on the Island that spring runoff has a virtually insignificant effect on our lakes and streams. Though water levels may be up somewhat over last year, the Island has had a smaller amount of blanketing snow than the high country areas of the state.

If we assume that the weather will be kind to us, we can expect conditions to be near perfect. The fish will most certainly be ready, willing (hopefully) and able. In preparation for your opening day venture you might want to consider the following information. Stated in the following paragraphs will be the changes in the 1977 stocking schedule, as compared to the 1976 program, and the detail of 1977 stocking locations, quantities of fish and the travel directions to the various locations should you decide to fish a new area.



During a conversation with Al Kellar, Fisheries Manager, DEC Stony Brook, I learned of several distribution changes that were made for 1977. The modifications in this year's stocking schedule are:

1. In the past, the Carmans River was stocked with brook trout and rainbows. For 1977, the Carmans will receive rainbows only, in a quantity double that of 1976.

2. Lower Lake is slated to receive 1300 rainbow trout instead of an equal amount of brook trout.

3. Canaan Lake will receive 1100 brook trout and 1200 rainbow trout as opposed to a prior stocking of 2500 brook trout.

4. East Lake (Swan Lake) will get 600 brookies and 500 rainbows this year. In the past, it was stocked with 1100 brook trout.

According to Al Kellar, "The reasons for the change over to rainbows in Carmans River and Hards Lake is because the rainbows have produced better results. Most of the brook trout stocked in the Carmans River soon disappear after stocking, while the rainbows hold up throughout the season and put on better growth. In Hards Lake there is very little carry-over of brook trout but the rainbows both carry-over well and put on considerable growth. Canaan Lake, Lower Lake and East Lake will be stocked with rainbows this year to see if we get the same results as Hards Lake."

1977 STOCKING SCHEDULE

STREAMS.

CARLLS RIVER Belmont Brook: Between Argyle Lake in Babylon and Southards Pond in No. Babylon, .7 miles will be stocked with 500 brown trout by April 1st and 500 brown trout by May 1st.

CARLLS RIVER (Belmont Brook): North Babylon between Southards Pond and Belmont Lake State Park, 1.5 miles will be stocked with 500 brook trout by April 1st and 500 brook trout by May 1st.

CARLLS RIVER (Belmont Brook): North Babylon between Southards Pond and Phelps Lake, .7 miles will be stocked with 200 brook trout by April 1st and 200 brook trout by May 1st.

CARMANS RIVER; Yaphank between Upper Lake and Lower Lake, .5 miles will be stocked with 300 rainbows by April 1st and 250 rainbows by May 1st.

CARMANS RIVER; South Haven—Suffolk County Park. Special Fishing Regulations. 2.3 miles will be stocked with 500 rainbows by April 1st, 500 rainbows by May 1st and 500 rainbows by May 15th.

CHAMPLINS CREEK: Islip from Brookwood Hall Pond upstream 1 mile, 1 mile will be stocked with 220 brook trout by April 1st.

NISSEQUOGUE RIVER: Smithtown—Jericho Turnpike north, 1.6 miles will be stocked with 2000 brook trout and 2000 brown trout by April 1st and May 1st.

OROWOC CREEK: Islip—Moffit Blvd, north to Brook Street, 1.3 miles will be stocked with 420 brook trout by April 1st.

SWAN RIVER: Patchogue, 1.2 miles will be stocked with 300 brook trout by April 1st and 240 brook trout by May 1st.

BEAVERDAM CREEK; Brookhaven, 1 mile will be stocked with 3000 brown trout fingerlings after October 1st.

CONNETQUOT RIVER (Tidal Section): Islip, 3.2 miles will be stocked with 10,000 brown trout fingerlings after October 1st.

PONDS.

AVON MANOR POND: Babylon, 3 acres will be stocked with 300 brook trout by April 1st.

CANAAN LAKE: Brookhaven, 25 acres will be stocked with 1000 brook trout after March 31st and 1200 rainbow trout by May 1st.

LOWER LAKE: Brookhaven, 26 acres will be stocked with 700 rainbow trout by April 1st and 600 rainbow trout by May 1st.

HARDS LAKE; Brookhaven, 42 acres will be stocked with 1600 rainbow trout by April 1st, 1600 rainbow trout by May 1st and 1800 rainbow trout by May 15th.

EAST LAKE: Brookhaven, 11 acres will be stocked with 600 brook trout after March 31st and 500 rainbow trout by May 1st.

KAHLERS POND: Brookhaven, 13 acres will be stocked with 650 brown trout by April 1st.

MILL POND: Islip, 6 acres will be stocked with 600 brook trout after March 31st.

WEST LAKE: Brookhaven, 20 acres will be stocked with 1100 brook trout after March 31st and 1100 brook trout by May 1st.

FREEPORT RESERVOIR: Hempstead, 17 acres will be stocked with 900 brook trout after March 31st and 800 brook trout by May 1st.

MASSAPEQUA RESER.: Oyster Bay 1,000 brook trout will be stocked after March 31st and 1000 brown trout by May 1st.

OYSTER BAY MILL PD: Oyster Bay, 400 brook trout will be stocked before April 1st and 300 brook trout by May 1st.

LOCATION OF PONDS:

1. AVON MANOR POND—Amityville. Broadway to Avon Place. East on Avon Place to Lake Drive.

2. CANAAN LAKE—Patchogue—Sunrise Highway to New North Ocean Avenue. North on New Ocean Avenue 6/10 of a mile to Shaber Road. West on Shaber Road 2/10 of a mile.

3. EAST LAKE (Swan Lake)—Patchogue—On north side of Montauk Highway, 8/10 of a mile east of Medford Avenue.

4. FREEPORT RESERVOIR—Freeport—Meadowbrook Pky to Babylon Turnpike (exit M-7), west on Babylon Turnpike to first traffic light. Left at light (Lakeview Avenue). South on Lakeview to reservoir entrance.

5. HARDS LAKE—Suffolk County Park—Fishermen entrance gate situated on north service road of the Sunrise Highway between Yaphank Road and William Floyd Parkway. Boats are available.

6. LOWER LAKE—Yaphank—On west side of Yaphank Road and north side of the Long Island Expressway. Exit at 66 on L.I.E. and turn left at first light. Proceed one mile to traffic light, turn left onto Yaphank Road.

7. KAHKERS POND—Located on north side of Montauk Highway between Center Moriches and East Moriches.

8. MASSAPEQUA RESERVOIR—Massapequa—Southern State Parkway to exit 30S (Broadway). South on Broadway 2.1 miles. East on Brooklyn Avenue. Entrance to reservoir at end of Brooklyn Avenue.

9. MILL POND—Oyster Bay—Situated on West Main Street and Lake Avenue.

10. MILL POND—Sayville—North side of route 27A east of railroad overpass.

11. WEST LAKE—Patchogue—Located on the north side of Montauk Highway, 1.1 mile west of Medford Avenue.

That's about it for the 1977 stocking program. Best of luck on April 1st.

NAVIGATION & SEAMANSHIP
(Continued from page 12)

vessel is in doubt, then that skipper must consider his vessel burdened. At night if you the skipper cannot see the other vessels port and starboard light, you must consider yourself burdened. Should the burdened vessel wish to direct her course to starboard, then one blast shall be sounded, answered by one blast from the privileged vessel. If the burdened vessel wishes to direct her course to port, then two blasts shall be sounded answered immediately by two blasts from the privileged vessel. It is mandatory that the privileged vessel maintain course and speed. The burdened or overtaking vessel must avoid cutting off or abruptly crossing ahead of the privileged vessel. The occasion may arise in the overtaking situation when the skipper of the privileged vessel may see a dangerous situation. There is a moral obligation that the privileged vessel not answer with a one or two blast signal but sound the danger signal. As soon as both vessels are clear of that situation, then the normal exchanges of whistle signals can begin.

A vessel is underway when she is not at anchor or made fast to the shore or ground.

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Try a spool of *Stren*. You can see it, you can control it. And control catches more fish than luck.

The line you see is the line you control.

Sinker Bouncing with Matt Ahern

Flounder Tips

The balmy days of April will soon be at hand.

Which means that multitudes of sinker bouncers will be devoting a good deal of their time to the gentle art of enticing flounders to the baited hook. Some will do well, and some will wish they had done better. It is possible some will return without a fish to their credit—although once the basics of flounder fishing are learned, I believe this sad state of affairs is pretty hard to accomplish in April.

If you are a veteran flounder fisherman cease reading. I'm sure you'll find nothing in this article you don't already know. But if you are a hesitant beginner, filled to brimming with the grand expectation of putting flatties in your bucket, read on. The methods described will help you do just that. They've worked for me time and again, and they'll work for you.

I won't set these methods down in what might be called their order of importance, for actually, all are important for successful fishing. None has precedence over the other, for if one doesn't produce, there's always a good chance another will. You will find, too, that master fishermen know and use any or all of these methods when ordinary techniques fail. This knowledge has helped them achieve their coveted title.

Let's begin by acknowledging that flounders are finicky feeders.

Unless he is fortunate indeed, the flounder fisherman who goes out armed with only one type of bait is pushing his luck. When I first began flounder fishing this is what I used to do because I didn't know any different. I know now that if a fisherman brings a supply of bloodworms for south shore fishing, or sandworms for the north shore, plus some bank mussels or sliced soft clam necks, he's going to stand a better chance of connecting.

But even with this bait selection, the fisherman isn't necessarily out of the woods. I've seen times when these baits fished alone left much to be desired. When this happens, that's the cue to use a combination bait. I now know that there are occasions when this is the only bait that produces.

I well remember how I came to this conclusion. I was using bloodworms exclusively on this particular long ago day and fishing near the old Pumkin Patch in Jamaica Bay. The fish were few and far between—damn few and far between, even for a beginner. Those fish I had managed to catch were all runts and not worth keeping. Earlier, I had noticed a can containing several soft clams which had been tucked away under the rear seat of the row boat. These had evidently been forgotten by the previous day's fisherman.

I recalled that someone had once told me clams, particularly soft clams, were excellent flounder bait, so at the height of my disappointment, I decided to give them a try. Opening one, I reduced the neck to bait-sized pieces and placed a slice on each of the two hooks. Nothing—not even a bite. So much for clam bait, I thought. Back to worms—at least they were giving me action, even if the fish were small.

Whether used from shore or boat, bank mussels are excellent bait and chum for spring flounder.

I don't know when the thought came, but sometime later something gave me the idea to try a slice of clam again and to cover the hook point with a small piece of bloodworm. My first attempt at a combination bait. I don't have to tell you what happened. I began catching one good-sized flounder after another. Those blamed fish were down there all the time—just putting on their occasional finicky act.

Most fishermen will agree a moving bait is more attractive to some salt water fish than one lying quietly on bottom. That's why you will often see flounder fishermen doing a bit of jigging. But as flounders are known to be more curious than aggressive, I doubt if it is the actual movement of the bait that attracts them. I believe it is the resulting swirls of mud that call attention to the bait. No doubt the rhythmic thudding of the sinker adds much to this inborn curiosity, too.

All this seems obvious, but I have found in fishing that it never pays to take anything for granted. We as fishermen can only surmise that such and such is so and try to do the best we can with what knowledge we have. Who actually knows for sure what goes on down there in that dark, mysterious world? But I do believe that flounders are curious and therefore this opens a broad roadway, leading the fisherman into various ways of increasing his catch. As mentioned, one of these is jigging.

This method is very useful when you have reason to believe that while fish are around, they seem reluctant to accept the bait. You will find these conditions exist on days when the barometer is low, or when the wind is from the east—especially so if the day is cloudy. Bounce your sinker a half-dozen times and let it lie quietly for a few seconds. Then cautiously raise the rod, feeling delicately for the weight of a feeding fish. When this is properly done, and if the fish is there, it will snap at the bait, inhaling the hook in one fell swoop. Then it is only necessary to plant the barb with a firm lift. I've caught many flounders with this method and it will pay to keep this trick in mind.

I imagine every fisherman knows what chumming is. It's the best way of drawing fish to the baited hook, to get them feeding, and to keep them within easy reach for as long as possible. Most flounder chumming is done with cracked bank mussels, either by sporadically sprinkling about the boat at the rate of a handful or two at a time, or by lowering a chum pot filled with the goo. (Soft clam will do the trick, too.) Either method works well, although the edge must be given to the chum pot if the current is faster than normal. If loose mussels are used under these conditions, they will be carried too far away to do you much good.

What many fishermen fail to consider, though, is that it isn't necessary to forego chumming if mussels are not on hand. Meaning that the fisherman should take advantage of the flounder's natural curiosity. Broken clam shells filtering to the bottom will attract flounder, as will pebbles and small bits of blue stone. If the current is slow-moving, don't overlook the effect of a double-handful of sand spread at intervals over the water near the line. Results are often spectacular.

As kids, we often filched pebbles from the neighborhood gas station for this purpose. At times we would bring a container of beach sand along in the row boat. While never as successful as cracked, food-laden clams and mussels, these substitutes seldom failed to attract and hold inquisitive fish around long enough for us to nail a few. By all means, the flounder fisherman should consider chumming of great importance. It can make or break his day.

Flounders are not only sensitive to bottom vibration, they can also distinguish color. And this is where the use

of dyed clams enters the picture. Much experimenting has been done and the two colors found to work the best are red and yellow, which of course comes as no great surprise when one considers this is the natural color of mussels and marine worms. My preference leans to red when used in shallow water, and yellow in anything deeper than twenty feet. But many fishermen swear by yellow at anytime and that's all they use when it is felt dyed bait will put fish in the bucket.

The advantage lies, too, in the fact that not only do flounders accept dyed clams—especially when the water is cold—but they are a lot cheaper than worms. They are also easier to keep on the hook than bank musseks, although I don't think clam will ever outfish these yellow-meated tid-bits.

I'm a great believer in dyed soft clam (steamers), but hard clams (chowders) and skimmers are good, too. Were I to go flounder fishing tomorrow, this is how I would go about preparing my bait: I would use at least two pounds of soft clams and begin by removing the black skin from the necks. Necks would then be sliced lengthways into narrow, inch and a half pieces, getting at least two slices from each neck. (The soft stomach and shells would be put aside for chum.) One pound would be left undyed in a separate container as insurance should the fish decide dyed clams won't be on the menu of the day—remember, I told you flounders can be finicky.

The other pound is dyed red or yellow with ordinary food color (Ehlers is good). Place slices in a plastic container and add a few drops of coloring at a time, stirring with a small stick. Be careful. Don't over-dye. A rich color is what you want, true, but remember dyed clam has a tendency to darken if too strong a mixture is used. Keep in refrigerator or freezer until ready to leave.

Some fishermen cover the clam slices with water, add the coloring, stir and store overnight in the refrigerator where the solution is slowly absorbed. (Some don't bother to slice the necks until after the coloring is completed.) I'm not too keen on either of these methods as I find if the dye solution isn't strong enough to thoroughly penetrate, the action of salt water is apt to bleach out the coloring when the bait is left on the hook too long.

Whole skimmers are a good substitute for soft clam. I like these better than hard clam as skimmer tends to be softer in texture, and if there's anything flounders like better than soft bait, I don't know what it is. Frozen skimmer can be dyed successfully when thawed, but unless you definitely know salt has not been added, be advised to stick with fresh clam in the shell.

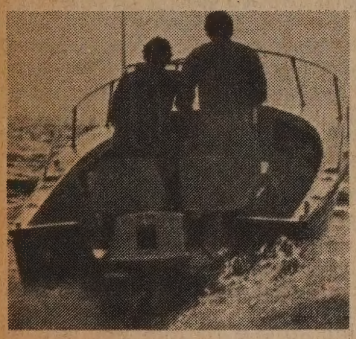
Whatever bait is left over from the day's fishing can be placed in the freezer for future trips. You'll find that food coloring seems to act as a preservative and your clams will last much longer than without the addition. If at any time the bait becomes dry and hard, just sprinkle with a little sea water and it will freshen up. As long as there is no objectionable odor, it is good to use. Don't forget, though, that dyed clam shouldn't be used as a substitute for worms or mussels, but only as a back-up for the times flounders show a decided preference for other bait.

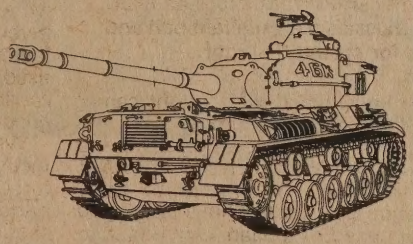
And last, but not least, is a handy gadget to have along whenever these fish are sought from a skiff or other private craft. This is the bottom bouncer. This can be an old sashweight, or even a netted bag filled with several pounds of rock. Anything that will be heavy enough to pound bottom and stir up mud will do the trick. This of course, works on the same principle as bouncing a sinker, but only on a larger scale. Doing this at intervals will bring any curious flounders in the area to your hook.

Don't forget too, that these methods can be used while shore fishing, with the possible exception of bottom and sinker bouncing. I say "possible" because while engaged in shore fishing, much casting is often necessary. But there are many piers, canal bulkheads, and creek banks where deep water is practically at the angler's feet, making casting unnecessary. In these places, you will find these two methods a big help.

These are just a few of the methods experienced flounder fishermen use. You will learn others as you become more involved with the fishing game. Those listed are the important ones and will produce fish for you when conditions warrant their use.

WHY BUY SEACRAFT?





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Interview with Danny Pichney

by Tim Coleman Part I

Editor's Note: Danny Pichney has been making bass plugs for 30 years. His creations are wooden extensions of a thoughtful, imaginative guy who is a master at his craft and a very successful student of the science of bass fishing.

Q. How long have you been making your plugs?
A. Thirty years.

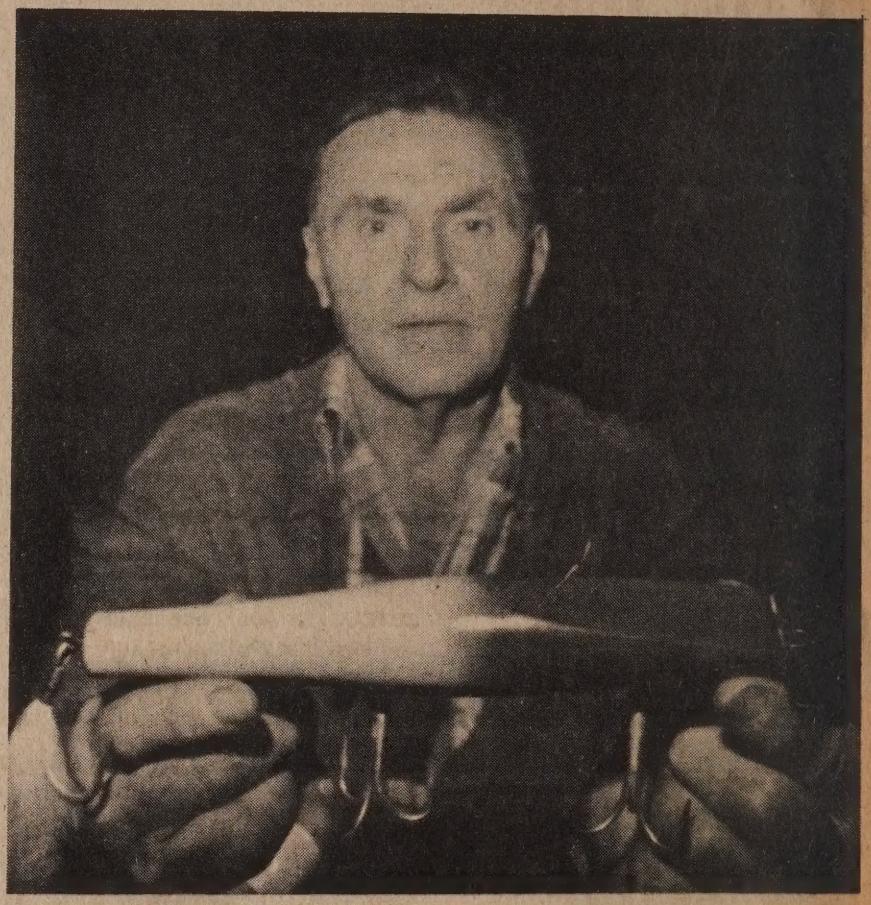
What got you started? Didn't you like what was on the market?
A. No, I just like to find things I could catch fish with. Also at the time I started you couldn't get some of the lures. The money wasn't around to buy the lures. I liked to catch fish with things that were my own ideas.

What happened then? Did guys see you using them and ask you to make them a couple?
A. I made the lures for friends. There used to be a group that used to fish together. If I found a lure that worked, I made it for friends. It was never made to be put on the market. Maybe seven or eight years ago I started making lures for people who asked for them. It started out with a half dozen here, and a half dozen there; soon it seemed like I was making lures for everybody. I couldn't keep up with it.

Q. Isn't it now a part-time business for you?
A. It was a hobby going into a business. I would have liked to have gotten someone to manufacture them. I would have liked to become a designer of lures because I have so many lures that will never see daylight because I can't make the lures myself. I am not too interested in making too many lures now. I'm not going to get rich with the lures I can make. By the time I could really start a business it would be too far gone at my age.

Q. If you had people approach you, would you be interested in turning the business over to somebody now?
A. It's not the turning over of the business, It's what happens when they get the ideas and start making them for profit instead of quality. Another item is the price of the lures. They would probably go up if a manufacturer got his hands on them. With my making them, they're still at a reasonable price.

Q. If someone would write to you who didn't know you, would you make him some lures?
A. I have a number of people that I've made lures for even though I've never met them. And some people want special sizes or colors, so I make them for them, but I can't do this on a large scale.

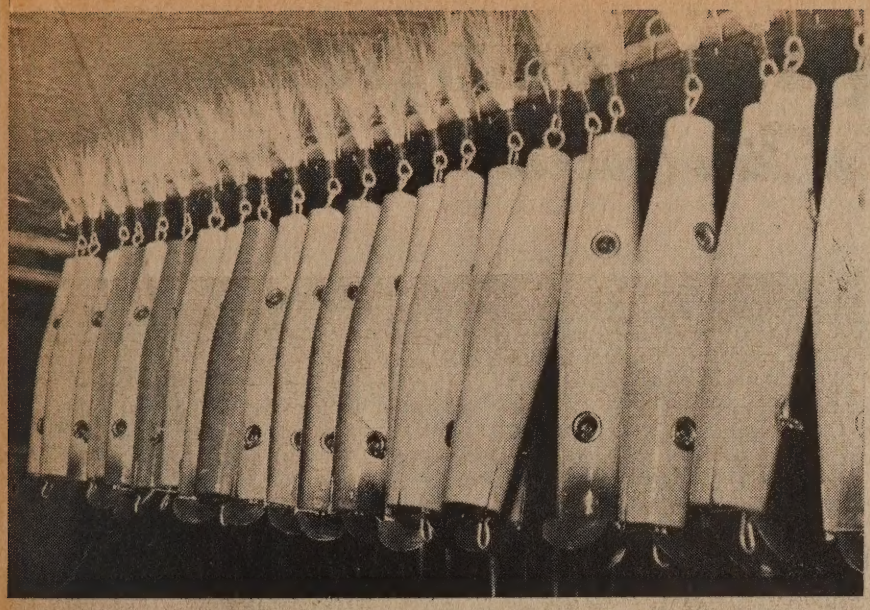


Danny Pichney with one of his fish-catching plugs.

Q. Do you have a waiting time of say six months for somebody who wants lures?
A. I never had that problem because I never made that many lures. In fact it was kept a big secret for awhile. Frank Keating (Long Island Press Fishing Writer) was trying to find out for three years who was making these lures. I didn't want to let it out because it would probably have been too much for me to make a lot of lures. There's also been times when people ask for lures but never come around to pick them up, so you're stuck with them. But I'm not really stuck with them because there's always somebody to take them even if I have to give them away.

Q. Do you give away a lot of lures?
A. Yes, I always give some lures away, especially to kids. It makes me feel good. When I see a kid who likes fishing I give him a lure in hopes that he takes that as a hobby instead of anything bad. Even when I sold the lures, I sold them at cost.

Q. It's just been in the last seven years that you started to make a little profit, right?
A. It started little by little and over the years I've never made that much making fishing lures. I got a satisfaction over showing people how to use the lures and especially enjoyed somebody coming back to me and saying that they caught some fish on my plugs. I then feel I've accomplished something. I never had any intention to become a lure manufacturer. It just so happened that people asked me to make lures for them. Remember, though, I can only make so many lures.



A row of Danny swimmers.

Q. Do you see a time in the future when you'll stop?
A. I may, especially if I get sick. If something happens to me I'll have to give it up. However, I might make it into a small business when I retire but I'll never be a big manufacturer. Right now I'm not making that many lures. Maybe when I retire I could make a few thousand lures and then I might make a little money.

Q. It's important to you, isn't it, that a lure with your name on it works right?
A. That's what I like. And if the lure isn't any good I would like people to tell me. I don't want any ficticous stories about the lures.

Q. Where do you mainly sell, from New Jersey to Cape Cod?
A. Yes, that's right.

Q. Now I'd like to get into tips on how to use your lures. For instance, if someone wanted to use the deep diver (trolling plug) in an inlet or along a beach with a steep drop-off, how deep would the plug go down on a normal retrieve?
A. I couldn't really say for sure how deep it would go under those conditions. Out in a boat I've seen the lure hit bottom in 25 feet of water with 180 feet of wire out.

Q. When you go surf fishing, do you use a steady retrieve?
A. No, you use different retrieves at different times. In colder water you go slower. Also, I use a slight circular rotation of the rod tip. Always put small movements to the lure. As the water warms up, you move the plug faster. When the fish are really feeding you might have to really wallop the plug along. At night you work the lure differently. With the surface swimmer you have a lot of boils at the plug but the fish never touch the lure. Then you have to pick up the speed until the fish hits. Sometimes they'll hit the plug when you use a lazy retrieve but still draw the plug to you with the circular motion of the rod tip throughout the retrieve. This changes the pace of the lure which fish find interesting. You have to use various speeds and see which one they will hit.

Q. Do you ever pop that surface swimmer like you would a true popping plug?
A. When you cast the surface swimmer, as soon as it hits the water, give it a pop. Then retrieve the plug giving it a pop every five or six feet. Don't go too fast with the surface swimmer; that is out! The calmer water is the time for the surface plug.

Q. Some of the fellows use the small deep diver in the power plants at Northport or at Montville on the Thames River in Conn. Do you have any tips for them?
A. With night lures you need a slow steady retrieve. Use very slow tip rotation in conjunction with the slower retrieve. Don't jerk the rod; just use slow draws of the tip to give the plug a slight change of pace. I never retrieve a plug straight. I always give it some kind of rod rotation.

Q. What do you recommend using at night if someone is fishing a shallow, rocky beach? Plenty of times, the fish won't come up to hit a speeding popper at night. Would you swim a popper in such cases?
A. That can and has been done very effectively as long as the particular popper you have will swim side to side on a slow retrieve. The Atom is one that swims. The Polaris is another one that will swim. As soon as you cast, take the slack out of the line when the lure hits the water. The Polaris sits in the water with the tail down just like a bait fish at slack water.

Q. How do you work your darter?
A. With the darter you use a pumping action at times and other times you retrieve it nice and slow with no rod action. If you're in rip water, you don't have to give it any action. The calmer the water, the more action you have to give a plug.

Q. What about color? Everybody has a different theory.
Q. To me the best all-around color is white with a red splash under the front. I hear that bass are supposed to be color blind but I don't believe it. When you change colors and start catching fish, there has to be a reason for it. Dark and light colors are important. Sometimes on a darker night, darker colors are better. After midnight I used the white one. At daybreak I switch to light blue or green.

Q. What does the little splash of red underneath do?
A. I don't truthfully know but it seems to work.

Q. What kind of leaders do you recommend for your plugs for a surf fisherman?
A. A leader is only for saving fish. You would take more fish tying directly to the lure but it's harder to change. A swivel isn't needed except on a rotating lure. You get better action without swivels.

Q. If someone uses braid for surf casting, should he tie a piece of mono directly to the braid, then loop the mono to the lure?
A. Yes. I find braided line tied right to the lure spooks the fish.

Q. Do you favor conventional over spinning for your lures?
A. Yes, you get better feel over the lure. You know exactly how your lure is working and can feel fish when they just tap at the plug.

Q. Do you know of anybody that's ever caught a 60 from the beach on a Danny plug?
A. No. Surf fishermen don't seem to fare too well with big fish.

Q. How about from a boat? Has anyone caught a sixty pounder on a Danny that way?
A. Last fall at Montauk one fellow took 500 pounds in one tide on my red and yellow deep diver. One of these fish weighed sixty pounds.

Q. Is there any reason you like the bucktail on the back of your plugs instead of the longer saddle hackles?
A. No, I prefer feathers myself. I like the longer tail. On the squids I used to change the bucktails for feathers. Bucktails however, are the thing and you have to catch fishermen as well as the fish. To put a lure out on the market it has to

(Continued on page 34.)

The Signal of Spring

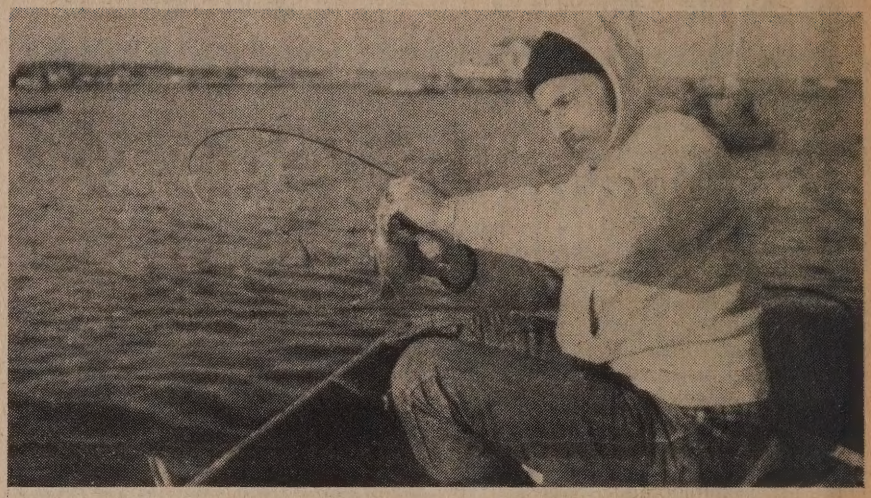
by Ron Onorato

The start of spring is many things to people, but to the salt water fishermen, spring doesn't start until the first flounder is flopping on the deck of the boat. Those dreary months of December, January and February have all of us chomping at the bit for some action. Although many fishermen shorten up the winter wait by codfishing, there are still a couple of months that have little if any, fishing activity. That brings us to our friend the flounder. He usually sticks his nose out of the mud around the middle of March and there are hordes of anxious anglers ready to greet him.

One of the few species of fish that seem to be always plentiful is the flounder. I can't remember when they have not been around in fairly good numbers. Flounders are sought after for primarily two reasons; first, they are just about the only fish around at this time of year, and they are pretty darn good eating fish. If you are selective about the areas you fish and keep just the larger fish, you can end up with some of the best tasting fillets imaginable.

In their anxiety to get back on the water as soon as possible after the long winter layover, most fishermen tend to rush the season a bit. There are many fishermen to who get things going at the end of February, although most wait for early March. Actually the best time to get started is around the end of March or if the weather has been cold, around the beginning of April. Most of the fish that are taken in the early part of the season are on the small side, and they are thin. They have spent much of their time lying in the mud and have not been feeding heavily, thus the fish are not really fat. The weather is usually pretty brisk in early March and the water temperature of the bays are pretty cold. Usually the weather straightens out around the beginning of April and the fish start their heavy feeding. The fish will linger in the South Shore bays up to the middle of May and then takes off for the inlets where they will then move out into the ocean to spend the summer. Some of the deeper pockets of the bays will hold fish until the end of June, and these fish are often of the biggest variety.

In this day and age of increased fishing pressure and reduced stocks of fish, it no longer is the simple matter of just dropping anchor anywhere and catching fish. This is true of flounder fishing also; the sharper the fisherman is, the more flounders he will catch. As



Ray Bennett unhooks small flounder.

funny as it may sound, there are a number of fishermen who qualify as flounder sharpies that will catch a hundred fish whereby most others will get just 20 or 30 fish. These fishermen refine their techniques that place them above the average angler.

The first step to good flounder fishing is finding the right type of mud bottom. It's a little hard to tell what exactly is the right type of bottom without looking at it. What you're looking for is a soft, brown or almost black type mud bottom. The only way to do this is to drop the anchor and lower a sinker to the bottom. Bounce the sinker a couple of times and see what it feels like. If it bounces a lot, you're probably in a hard, sand bottom. If it sticks a little bit before you lift off the bottom, you have a mud bottom. Once you do this, pull the anchor and see what sticks to it. If there are small worms or tiny clams in the mud, you have the type of bottom that is desirable for good flounder fishing. As a rule, hard sand bottoms are not as good as the mud bottoms.

The movement and the activity of the flounders are directly affected by the weather. Cold, windy days are the poorest for good fishing. The fish seem to move into deeper water and get back into the mud. On these days, look for the fish in the deeper channels and holes rather than the flats. On sunny, windless days, the fish become more aggressive and move onto the flats to feed. A favorite spot to look for flounders when the weather is nice, is the clam flats. These flats hold tiny worms and other forage that the flounder feed on.

After you're on the grounds, the second step to good fishing is to get the fish which are scattered over a large area, concentrated into a smaller area near the boat where they will take a baited hook. This calls for proper chumming. I say proper chumming, because most flounder fishermen don't do it right. When you talk about chumming, many anglers think that all they have to do is take a handful of mussels and crush them and then heave the batch over the side. This is not proper chumming, in fact if there is any sort of current, this may be counter-productive. The current will carry the relatively light mussels away from the boat and any flounders in the area will follow the mussels away from the boat. If there is a very light current and the water is shallow, you may get away with cracking a few mussels, but not too often. The way to get a chum line going is by using a chum pot anchored near the bottom. The type of chum that you put in the pot is quite important, as you will be using more than mussels.

A good, surefire chum consists of crushed mussels, bunker chum, and rice. At the beginning of the season I'll take a bushel of fresh mussels and put them into a metal garbage can and mash them up really good until they are crushed pretty good. A whole can of bunker chum is then put into the same can as the ground mussels. On top of this, a twenty pound bag of uncooked rice is thrown in. The whole thing is then thoroughly mixed together with a small

shovel. The resulting mix is then put into two pound coffee cans and sent to the bait freezer until it gets frozen. Once frozen, the blocks of chum are then used as needed. The advantage of the frozen blocks of chum is that once in the water, they thaw very gradually and a steady trickle of chum is always coming from the pot. After an hour or so, examine the pot to see if there is anything left in it. Replenish it as it gets low with another frozen block.

A method that is seldom used but quite effective is to stir the bottom with something that will kick up the mud pretty good. The idea behind this is to release many of the bottom organisms such as tiny worms into the current. Flounders are very curious creatures and the disturbance will often attract them to the area where they will eat whatever is floating around. You are in effect, creating a natural chum line. Some favorite items used to stir the bottom include; a set of tire chains, or a couple of sashweights rattled on the bottom, or a long handled plumbers plunger or clam tong. It's a bit of a bother, but can be very effective.

If after chumming an area, or stirring the bottom for 15 minutes or so without a hit, move the boat a bit. The range of the chum is really quite restricted and often a move of just 50 or 60 feet will mean the difference between catching or just fishing. This is especially true when the fish are still in the mud and not covering any great areas. Sometimes it takes a little work to get the flounders going, so if you're in a spot that has produced in the past, don't give up on it too easily.

Spinning tackle is just about the standard outfit that is seen on the flounder grounds these days. The fish are for the most part small, ranging from ¾ to an occasional two pound fish, so it makes sense to go after them with reasonably light tackle. Any 6 pound spinning outfit that will be able to hold a couple of ounces of lead will be more than ample to fish with.

The successful flounder fishermen will agree on one thing; use the tiniest hook that you can get away with. For the average bay flounder, the largest size hook that you should use is a #7 Chestertown, or a long shank O'Shaugnessy of the same size. To use a hook any larger than that is for the most part an exercise in frustration. The flounders have a tiny, rubbery mouth and suck in their food. The long shank hook allows for easy removal of the hook from the fish's mouth. When you use too big a hook, you'll be plagued by many short bites, but few hookups. If this happens, it's time to go to a smaller hook. The customary procedure is to use two hooks, one tied into the leader of the other hook. The use of spreaders and other hardware is best avoided. A simple snap swivel attached to the terminal end of the mono line that you're using is all that is needed. Both the sinker and the hooks are then attached to the snap.

At one time, the bloodworm was the most popular bait on the flounder scene. This is no longer the case for several reasons. First, the worm is not the most effective bait, and second, it has been priced right out of range of the average fisherman. The most effective bait for the spring flounder is the common bank mussel. A hunk of this fresh, yellow meat is the fillet mignon to the flounder. Some fellows like to steam the mussels open in an effort to toughen up the soft meat, but the fresh stuff usually is better. The fresh mussels still have all the natural juices that the flounders seem to love so much. Mussels are shucked right from the shell and placed directly onto the hook. If the bait is exceptionally large, it can be cut in half.

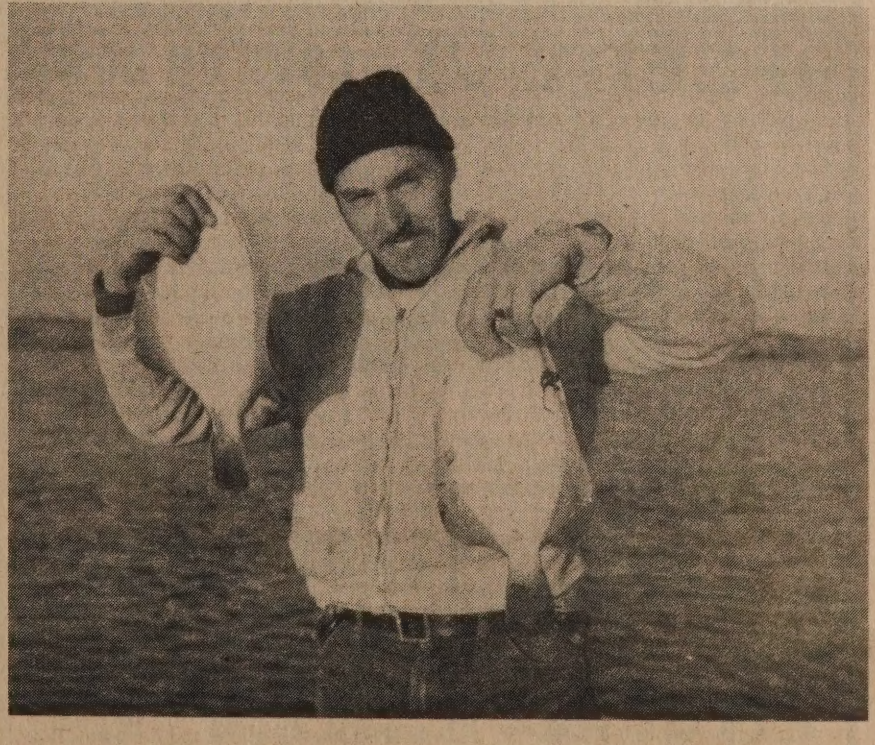
A very close second in the bait department is the red dyed skimmer clam. It has been said that this bait is meant to resemble the tapeworm or ribbon worm. It does a bit, and is really quite effective. Shuck out a dozen or so skimmers and put them into a bowl, using #2 food dye, and add a few drops and cover the clams with water. Let it sit for several hours and then put the clams into smaller packages of 6 clams each and freeze them until ready for use. You can dye the clams yellow by using the same technique. Either of these baits are superior for flounders.

Last but not least, there is the bloodworm, once so popular, but now used only sparingly. It will take fish and it is much more durable than the other softer baits.

A word about putting these baits on the hook is in order. The flounder gets his food down his throat by sucking it in, not by biting. I have removed a six inch worm completely intact from the stomach of a pound size flounder, so don't get the notion that you have to use a tiny piece of bait. As long as the bait is fairly thin and not too bunched up, you can use a 2 or 3 inch piece of clam or worm without any trouble at all. As long as the bait is long and narrow, you're in business.

Flounders like a moving bait over one that is lying stationary on the bottom. That is why few are caught on a dead stick. The best thing to do is to keep lifting the baited hooks off the bottom every few seconds. Many times the flounder will come a couple of inches off the bottom and suck the bait right down. What I'll do if there is a flounder pecking on the bait is lower the rod tip just a bit and then slowly lift it again. This will allow the fish to get the hook in his mouth.

Fresh flounder fillet is perhaps the tastiest meat that comes from the sea, and if the fish isn't large enough to fillet or if it isn't thick enough, back it goes. Unfortunately, the flounders that many fishermen keep are so small that it is a wonder that they get any meat off them at all. If the flounders are too small in your backyard, try further east out around Moriches Bay, where as a rule, the flounders are generally better size and a little more plentiful.



Ray Bennett shows a couple of husky spring flounders.

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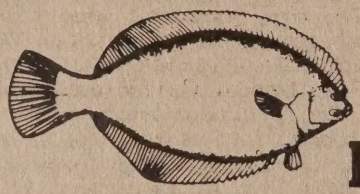

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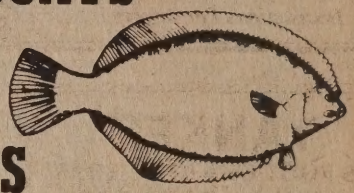

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** said that the codfishing on Saturday was slow but good on Sunday with 15 anglers taking 90 cod up to 25 pounds at the Cartwright Grounds. A couple of 15 to 18 lb. pollack were mixed in with the catch. Paul said that things have been picking up lately and the fish are green. The first Nantucket wreck trip is scheduled to leave April 10th at 9 P.M., a Sunday and will return April 11th at 9 P.M., Monday. Call for reservations.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported that 8 fishermen took 60 cod on Sunday ranging from 5 to the 30 lb. pool fish. A 25 lb. hake was also taken. Best area has been outer Cartwright in 120 feet of water and there are plenty of sandeels being spit up by the fish being caught. Richie noted that there are quite a few whales moving around the area which is usually a sign that fishing will improve, believe it or not.

Captain Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** reported that the rod and reel catches are now good with 4 to 10 cod being taken per man. Best area remains the Cartwright Grounds.

Captain Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** dropped by the new L.I.F. Offices located in Sag Harbor, to say that he will start sailing on April 1st for cod, pollack and snowshoe flounder when they show up. The boat will be sailing 6 A.M. weekdays and 5 A.M. Saturday and Sunday.

Hank Neville of the **Gone Fishin' Marina** on East Lake Drive called to say that the marina's excellent launching ramp is now open and that dock space is still available. The marina has purchased a new line of skiffs and outboard motors for rental customers that don't have their own small boats. More details to come next week.

Charterboat **Free Spirit** called to say that he is getting the boat prepared and prettied up and will start sailing for spring cod by the middle of April.

EAST HAMPTON

Bill Cox of the **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** reported that he had one boat out on Sunday flounder fishing. Felix Occhipinti and Tom Kaelin from Pt. Washington took 39 big, fat flounder in the 1 to 2 lb. range with mussels and sandworms for bait, no chumming.

SHINNECOCK

Captain Clark Bellows Sr. reported that the **Captain Clark Boats** have been

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sailing with small crowds due to the erroneous weather reports. Fishing has been only fair but all of the flounder being taken are unusually large and fat with many in the 1¾ and 2 lb. class. Best area has been off Jamesport and Indian Point in the shallow water 7 to 8 feet deep. Mussels have been the best bet bait and the fish are hitting through both tides.

HAMPTON BAYS

Corr's Fishing Station reports flounder in Shinnecock Bay was slow this week due to the weather. It was best in Shinnecock Canal and in front of the station. The bait is bloodworms and mussels plus mussel chum. Average catch is six to twelve fish per man which will keep improving as the weather does likewise.

Tony's Fishing Station had one boat out on Wednesday that took over a bushel of big flounder at buoy #7 in the Quogue Canal using bloodworms for bait and mussels for chum. The beginning of outgoing water provided the most action. Tony reported that the fishing was down somewhat on the weekend because of the poor weather, but there are plenty of fish around.

MORICHES BAY

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that their boats have been travelling east to buoys 43 and 44 for the flounder action concentrated there. The fish are nice and plump with the average flattie going 1½ pounds and fish up to 3 pounds hitting the scales. Chumming with mussels is a must for good results, and bloodworms seem to be the best bait at present. Action has been a steady pick all day through both tides.

The **Hi-Way Fishing Station** had one boat out with the same angler on 3 days and the score was 20, 41, and 46 flounder each trip. All were nice size in the 1 lb. class ranging up to 2 pounds. The hot spot has been east between buoys 43 and 44 and the fish are hitting through all tides. Chumming with mussels is a must.

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz Fishing Station** tells of good flounder fishing between buoys 11 and 19, best on an incoming tide and in the late morning. Fish are large, from 1½ to 2½ pounds with a lot of yellowtails mixed in. Bloodworms are the key with heavy chumming necessary and Gary says bring something along to stir up the bottom.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports flounders are being caught off the local piers, and that clamdiggers are getting

fish off Heckscher Park. The fish are out there, all that's needed is weather and some fishermen.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait & **Tackle** reports that they have heard of flounders being caught at the marina and behind the hospital.

CAPTREE

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reported that the boat made its first trip on Saturday and that the 12 anglers aboard took 70 flounder. While not much in quantity, they made up for this with their size. The smallest flounder was about ¾ of a pound, most were over 1 pound, with a few up to 2 pounds. Best areas have been west of buoy 4 off of Heckscher State Park and between buoys 18 and 20. The flounder are feeding on both tides and while bloodworms is the best bait, clams are also producing their fair share. Speedy said that the fish are feeding better but are still not moving around, but the water temperature is now up to 43 degrees and this may change the story.

Captain Walter Specht Jr. of the charterboat **Lady Ann** reported taking 35 flounder on Sunday. It was a slow pick but all the fish were big and the pool was coped by a 2 pound 4 ounce flounder. Best area is off Heckscher and the clamming flats around buoy 18. Walter said that the flounder fishing has been better than last year at this time. Fish are hitting through both tides on bloodworms and dyed clams.

We heard through the grapevine that the **Captain Rod** had the outstanding flounder taken aboard a Captree boat last week. The fish was 19 inches long and weighed 3 pounds, taken off buoy 4 at Heckscher.

The **Captain Ben Litwin** reported a very good Sunday of flounder fishing with hi-hook aboard the boat an even dozen fish. All aboard had a few and the fish were all nice and thick. Best area has been off Heckscher State Park with bloodworms for bait. The Captain said that things have really picked up since last week.

Captain Carl Bauer of the **Captain Whittaker** reported that the fishing on Wednesday and Thursday was fair but picked up to decent proportions on Sunday. Average catch was about 10 flounder per man and the hi-hook was 15. Fish were all good sized in the 1 lb. class and every day shows improvement in the catches. Fish are spread out from Cherry Grove flats to Sailors Haven with a pick of flounder everywhere.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait & **Tackle** reports that the flounder are becoming active, and that

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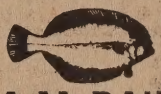
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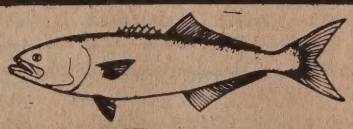

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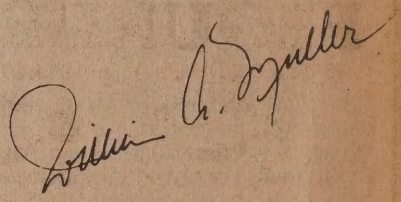
EDITORIAL
(Continued from page 4.)

Rather, I challenge any fisherman to prove that I am wrong. The information and data is available. You can begin with the following sources:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Depts. of Environmental Conservation (Maine to Fla.)
Various reports and surveys from Chambers of Commerce
Fulton Fish Market green sheets
Public Libraries

...and then you can draw on any other legitimate information source to try and prove that I am wrong! I challenge you to match my hard data with your hard data if you can find any! If you think you can prove me wrong, I'll say so right here—with humility and candor. Good Luck *Homo dumis*.



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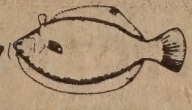
BRAND X 8A.M. DAILY



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14 was high hook for the week. The Bergen Point flats are producing tho. picky. Heavy chumming is required now. Fish are good sized.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait & Tackle reports flounder up to 2½ pounds being taken from Bass Creek up to the Wantagh Bridge area on bloodworms and worm/mussel combos plus a lot of chum. Try off the Copiague Beach also.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells us that fat flounder are being caught off West Island and Amity channel. Worms and mussels along with mussel chum are doing it.

LINDENHURST

The **Sea Horse** reports that the fishing is pretty much the same with 8-10 fish per man up to 1½ pounds. He is doing a lot of moving around to get more action and on Saturday, Bill Kessinger took 9 flounder up to 1½ pounds.

Charlie's Bait and Tackle says that the flounders have arrived and that the most productive spots for this weekend will be the Copiague Hole, Babylon pool, Fox Creek and the Lindenhurst launch ramp. Worms, mussels and clam are the baits and heavy chumming is required.

MASSAPEQUA

Massapequa Tackle & Sports reports flounder being caught at Alhambra Cove and the hole off Harbor Green on bloodworms and mussel baits but heavy chumming is a must. Incoming is the best.

SEAFORD

Captain Eddie's Fishing Station reports flounder being caught now in Seaford Creek, Four Corners and along the Massapequa shoreline. Fish from three-quarters to 1½ pounds were taken through Saturday, while on Sunday a lot of smaller fish were caught. Worms plus chum are the ticket. The fish are hitting lightly.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine Supplies reports that the hottest spot he knows of is Merrick's row boat alley which is producing very good flounder on incoming tide using worms and mussel chum.

MERRICK

NICK' Fishing Station reports that Sal Di Giovanni and buddy bagged 40 flounder up to a pound and a half, along with a lot of one-pound plus fish, fishing just about 100 yards off Nick's dock, at the second pole. Mussel baits are working best along with mussel chum.

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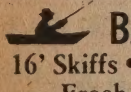

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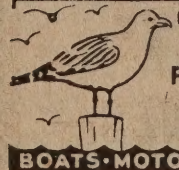

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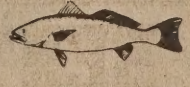

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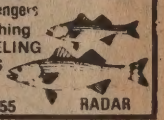

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Capt. Al** reports that the flounder fishing is good with about 10-20 fish per drop. The captain said that the fish are big with 1 throwback in four days but there is no quantity.

The **Blue Fin II** will be sailing next Saturday for flounder and will be sailing from his new berth at Muller's Dock in Freeport.

The **Aloma II** reports that the fishing over the weekend was poor because of the bad weather but was very good before Friday with 8-10 flounder per man up to 1½ pounds.

The charter boat **Nite Owl** call to say that on Sunday, John Mancuso and party of Oceanside fished jigs and also mackerel baits on the bottom to fill the fish box with 26 pollack up to 20 pounds plus one eight-pound cod.

The Capt. Lou II called to say that they will start sailing this Saturday at 7:30 a.m. for flounder and that he looks for a productive, early season.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that up to 2 dozen flounder are being taken per boat. These flatties are running from ½ to 1 pound and can be caught at Reynolds Channel, Sea Dog Creek, North Channel and Cinder Creek on mussel chum and worms.

ISLAND PARK

The Commodore reports that over the weekend Neil Rose of Long Beach took the pool with a 2½ pound flounder which was one of the 12 fish he caught. Hi-hook was Al Menderio of Rego Park with 28 fish. The **Commodore** fished Reynolds Channel, and Duck Point. The most productive area was Hog Channel with the last of the outgoing tide the best time to fish.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that flounder are being taken at the North and South Channel Bridge from ½ to 1 pound with an occasional 2 pounder taken on worms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Blue Sea II** reports good whiting fishing before this weekend's bad weather, with fish being taken from ½ to 2 pounds 35 miles from the jetty.

The **Dorothy B** reports that fishing was good in Jamaica Bay when the weather was good. Up to 25 flounder were taken per man on Saturday, while on Sunday the action was slower.

The charter boat **Babe** called to report that Captains Stan and Ken Chrysler started sailing Saturday and that Al S. and friends boated 75 good sized keeper flounder along with a lot of throw-backs behind Motts Point for a good day's fishing.

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

ORIENT POINT

Port of Egypt reported that they had 2 boats out last week. One boat went out last Sunday; the other went out last Wednesday. A total of two fish were taken for those two trips. However, don't take this to mean the fishing is stinko everywhere. Some kids were reported to have taken a dozen flounders up to 1½ pounds at Sterling Harbor. One gent who came into buy bait said he saw a fellow with a dozen flats at the Goose Creek Bridge. That's why he came in to get some bait for himself. There was a rumor of a lot of flats taken at Town Creek in Southold. If you hit the right day in the right spot you can get some fish but as of this writing it sure looks like things haven't broken wide open yet.

GREENPORT

The Wilhelric reports Saturday's fishing was slow but Sunday saw better action with flatties running from 1½ to 2 pounds. Angler Bernie Gutstadt of Rockaway boated 12 fish. They are fishing mussels in the Cockel's Harbor area. Looks like the start of a good season.

A.P. White Bait Shop said no real flounder fishing is underway yet. Some fish were taken off the local docks but that's about it for rod and reel activity. We are reminded that last year's fishing didn't get started until April. A lot of flounders went into the bay last fall and the draggers are doing well right now. So when the fish do start biting, they should be hungry and there seems to be a good number of them. Signs look good for a good flounder season.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that flounder fishing in the South Race is good with fish from 1 to 1½ pounds being taken all on mussels at slack tide.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center said they saw the first influx of fishermen last week. The best that can be said at this point is a few flounders up to a maximum of ¾ pound were taken in the bay around buoy 9. Last week's snowstorm certainly didn't help the situation any. If we get some good weather, look for an improvement in the action in a week to ten days. That's if we get the break in the weather. Gad, but it has been a long winter.

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PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports that flounder are being taken at the old bridge site at Setauket from ¾ to 1 pound on worms and mussels on the outgoing tide.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said the first flounders were caught off Ashroken Beach by surfcasters last week. Not that many fish were caught but those that were were nice-sized. The average fellow got anywhere from one to four fish per tide for his efforts. Worms were the universal bait choice. Last week one customer observed a commercial boat with the numbers blacked out netting stripers early in the morning at the LILCO power plant. Since that time fishing dropped out to nothing. The commercial guys probably didn't get all the fish but we're betting they put a healthy dent in that resident population of fish.

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INTERVIEW WITH D. PICHNEY

(Continued from page 19.)

have one tail. You can't have 100 different tails. The bucktail is standard.

Q. How about your Danny plugs up against the bunkers in the daytime? A lot of people say they can't keep up? What do you say?

A. Well, the first thing that catches fish is bait. Live bait is about the best. But dead and chunk bunkers works too. On the basis though of other lures on the market, even the big Pikie, I think my lures did a terrific job of catching the bunkers. But the bunkers are the candy, the ice cream. There's no getting away from it. You'll however find lots of fellows up and down the coast who still catch a lot of fish with plugs.

Q. If someone came up to a school of bunkers and wanted to use your plugs instead of bait, would the thing to do be to get the trolling swimmer down under the school, rather than swim a plug up on top?

A. Yes, you want a plug that will go under the bunker. The bass lay under the school waiting for one to stray from the school. Bluefish will chase right into the school. Whatever the blues chop up, the bass will eat. Members of one club I know of fished the deep swimmer in back of the Jones Beach State Channel. They wanted a plug that would go underneath the bunker.

Q. What do you think about bunker fishing?

A. It's certainly nothing to learn to do. There's a few exceptions where you have to say cut the bait but you don't have to be a bass fisherman. You can be a fluke fisherman and just drift along waiting for a pick-up. When the bunker fishing started in New Jersey off Sandy Hook you used to see a thousand boats with a fish on the line. You don't see that anymore. They really did something on the big bass. I don't say somebody shouldn't try, it's worth an experience.

Q. It takes much more skill to catch a fish with a plug than with a bunker.

A. Definitely.

How about an eel skin on a Danny plug?

A. They work. The only problem with eel skins is you have to store them in some kind of salt solution. If you get a crack or a hole in the plug and the salt solution penetrates, the lure is finished. That's the only drawback. That's why the plastic plugs are good because you can store them in brine without fear of the solution getting into the plug.

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CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported the City Island party boats started sailing on St. Patrick's Day. The average catch was 15 to 20 flounders per man. Location was over in Oyster Bay in spots recently worked over by the commercial oyster boats. They work over the bottom, dislodging feed and attracting flounders. The boats should be fishing in this spot for another two weeks. Shore fishermen are getting some flounders in the lagoon at Orchard Beach. In case you didn't notice we had a slight snowstorm on Friday which probably messed up quite a few flounder fishing plans.

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To place an ad in *The Long Island Fisherman's* classified section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read, along with your check or money order for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 25 cents per word, 30 word ($7.50) minimum. Subscribers of *The Fisherman* receive a discount if they include the serial number off their *Subscribers Club Card* with the order. Classified rates for subscribers are: 20 cents per word, 30 word ($6.00) minimum. Discounts on extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%, and 50 times, 15%.

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Large stock of Evinrude, Johnson and Sea Gull outboard motor parts. Try us—we ship U.P.S.: BURCK, INC., 526 City Island Avenue, City Island, Bronx, 10464. 212 885-1667.

1976 Silverton F/W/C 26' Fiberglass Flybridge, Cabin Cruiser, 22 hours, Bridge Cover, Bimini Top, Trim Tabs, 110 Dockside, Pressure Water, Pole Holders, VHF, CB, Digital Depth Finder, Elac Recorder, Plus extras. $17,500. Days at 226-0333; eves at 586-0285.

WANTED TO BUY: Boston Whaler hull, any condition. 13 to 17 feet, priced reasonable. Call Chuck at 516 249-1777.

1972 GRADY WHITE 21' NASSAU, Cabin Boat, 165 h.p. O.M.C. Stern Drive with many extras. This is a very clean boat with low hours. $5500. PORT OF EGYPT MARINE 516 765-2445.

1972 17' BOSTON WHALER, Fiberglass, Center Console, Bench Seat with reversible rests. 1970 60 h.p. Johnson, Plus 1970 Dilly Galvanized Trailer, $2400 complete. PORT OF EGYPT MARINE 516 765-2445.

PRIDE OF THE FLEET—28' Fly Bridge Sedan Cruiser by Ventnor, F/W/C, Marine 190 h.p. Crusader Engine. Spacious and comfortable below, fully sound, in water and ready to go. $5500. Call 516 223-3382.

1972 GRADY WHITE 19' Fiberglass Runabout with 1969 115 h.p. Evinrude. Depth Finder, Compass with 1972 Cox Trailer. $3400. Call 201 768-4270.

Wanted: Mako, Aquasport, ProLine, Wellcraft center console, 20' to 24' with Evinrude or Johnson only. Trailer important. To $3500 Cash for package in top condition. 516 324-3904.

23' Thunderbird, 2-160 h.p. Engines, V Bunks, Head, Clean, Very Fast, economical. Lots of equipment. $5000 Firm. Call 735-5019.

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WANTED: 25' Alglas Pacemaker FB, Dual Controls, Must be clean. Call 516 352-9517.

Century Raven 76, 27' Excellent Condition, less than 50 hours, stand-up head, full galley, sleeps 5, Radio, DF, 233 I/O Mercruiser, full canvas, many extras. Days at 231-7919; Eves at 643-8880.

26' Zubach Open Sea Skiff, Navy Top, Chevy 8, Equipped with Tuna-Tower, outriggers, VHF Radio, Fighting Chair, etc. $2975. Call 862-8037.

'73 MAKO, 23' I/O 225 Engine, Cuddy Cabin, Portable Head, Full Cover with rain window, CB Marine Radio, Many extras. Reasonably Priced. 516 938-9684 or 681-0272.

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1973 22' MAKO 135 h.p. Evinrude Motor, Custom Bimini, Fully enclosed plexiglass canvas; live baitwell, Richie Compass, VHF and CB Antenna. Firm $5495. Call 475-8542 or 475-6550.

20' International 1970 Fiberglass, 115 h.p. Evinrude, Completely overhauled, Cuddy Cabin, New Navy Top of Dacron, Deep V Fishermans Model, 50 gallon tank, fully equipped. "Valiant" Eves and weekends at 516 536-6429. $3100.

17' Wellcraft Center Console, 1976 115 h.p. Evinrude 20 hours, All gauges, power trim. Danforth Compass, 2 anchors, line, Trim Teak, 1975 Big Cox Trailer with many extras. $4600. Call 516 599-7987 Eves.

16' Wellcraft, Tinted walkthru windshield, 100 h.p. Johnson exc., power tilt, Cox Trailer with power winch, 18 gal. tank, full canvas, C.G. Equip., Best offer over $1700. Call 744-8141. Great fishing boat.

1973 16' Chrysler Fiberglass, 70 h.p. Chrysler, Sealion Trailer, Full Canvas, Rod Holders, Compass, Extras. Fast, stable, ready to go. Excellent condition. Great Fishing, Skiing, and Family Boat. $2000. Call 212 463-3266 After 6 P.M.

19' GRADY WHITE Open Fisherman, 125 h.p. Evinrude, 9½ h.p. Evinrude Trolling Motor, Two Batteries, UHF Radio, CB Radio, Used as fishing and dive boat. $3500. Eves at 203-579-4689.

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14' Fiberglass Runabout, Center console, 1975 25 h.p. Chrysler, Shore Line Galvanized Trailer, Garaged in good condition. Extras. $725. Call 516 938-9330.

40' Nova Scotia Sedan Fisherman, Perfect family or charter boat, Twin 3½ year old diesels, burns 3 gallons per hour. Super economy. Ready to go, all extras. Sacrifice $13,000. Call 516 928-3549.

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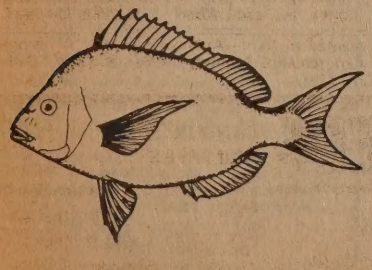

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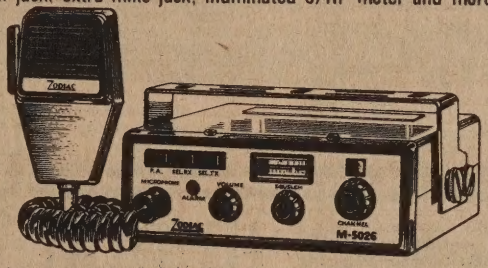

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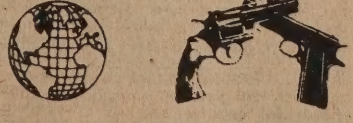

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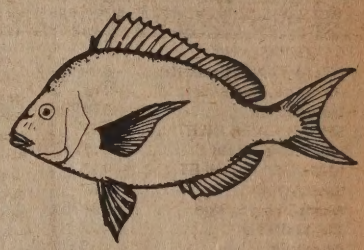

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THUR.	10:37	10:55	11:29	11:48	11:28	11:41	—	12:24	1:27	1:50	1:48	2:16	10:38	10:59	3/24
FRI.	11:19	11:33	—	12:11	—	12:10	12:42	1:14	2:07	2:32	2:33	3:02	11:25	11:48	3/25
SAT.	—	12:07	12:33	1:02	12:21	12:52	1:30	2:07	2:51	3:18	3:21	3:55	—	12:16	3/26
SUN.	12:19	12:59	1:27	1:59	1:03	1:43	2:23	3:07	3:39	4:11	4:16	4:51	12:43	1:15	3/27
MON.	1:11	1:58	2:27	2:59	1:52	2:40	3:20	4:04	4:35	5:09	5:14	5:51	1:41	2:15	3/28
TUE.	2:14	3:01	3:28	4:00	2:57	3:45	4:18	4:58	5:34	6:14	6:14	6:46	2:40	3:12	3/29
WED.	3:21	4:06	4:27	4:55	4:06	4:46	5:13	5:46	6:38	7:20	7:10	7:39	3:36	4:06	3/30
THUR.	4:25	5:02	5:19	5:44	5:06	5:38	6:04	6:31	7:42	8:16	8:05	8:29	4:29	4:53	3/31

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

3/2	6:34	5:51
3/7	6:26	5:57
3/12	6:18	6:03
3/17	6:09	6:09
3/22	6:01	6:14

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
3/19	3/27	3/5	3/12

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
THURS.	7:50	**2:00**	8:10	**2:25**
FRI.	8:40	**2:50**	9:00	**3:15**
SAT.	9:30	**3:45**	9:55	**4:10**
SUN.	10:25	**4:35**	10:45	**5:00**
MON.	11:15	**5:20**	11:30	**5:45**
TUES.	11:45	**6:05**	—	**6:30**
WED.	12:15	**6:50**	12:45	**7:25**
THURS.	1:00	**7:35**	1:40	**8:00**

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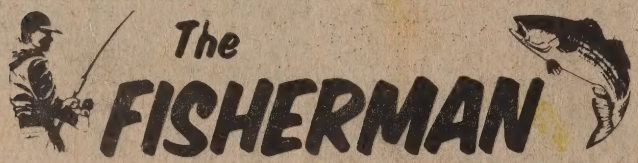

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